

MEETING NOTES

Basin Monitoring Program Task Force April 11, 2022

STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT:

City of Beaumont, Kevin Lee*
City of Corona, Melissa Estrada*
City of Redlands, Shannon Simmers*
City of Rialto, Thomas Crowley*
City of Riverside, Bobby Gustafson*
City of Riverside, Doug Edwards*
City of Riverside, Greg Herzog*
Eastern Municipal WD, Al Javier*
Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Jesus Gastelum*
Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Sudhir Mohleji*

Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Joshua Aguilar*
Orange County Water District, Greg Woodside*
San Bernardino Valley Municipal WD, Matt Howard*
SBMWD/RIX JPA, Jennifer Shepardson*
SBMWD/RIX JPA, Marissa Flores-Acosta*
WMWD, Jennifer McMullin*
WMWD, Mallory Gandara*
YVWD, Ashley Gibson*
YVWD, Jennifer Ares*

OTHERS PRESENT:

Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Hannah Erbele*
Kahn Soares & Conway, LLP, Theresa (Tess) Dunham*
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Bruce Whitaker*
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, T. Milford Harrison*
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Mark Norton*
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Haley Mullay*

Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Eric Lindberg*
West Yost, Samantha Adams*
West Yost, Sodavy Ou*
West Yost, Veva Weamer*
Water Systems Consulting, Michael Cruikshank*

*Participated via conference call

STAKEHOLDERS ABSENT:

Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
Chino Basin Water Master
City of Banning
Irvine Ranch Water District

Jurupa Community Services District
San Geronio Pass Water Agency
Temescal Valley Water District

Call to Order/Introductions

The Basin Monitoring Program Task Force (Task Force) meeting commenced at 10:02 a.m. in a virtual Zoom Meeting, in response to, and in compliance with, COVID-19 regulations. Brief introductions were made.

Approval of February 22, 2022 Meeting Notes

The February 22, 2022 meeting notes were approved as posted.

Approval of FY 22-23 Draft Basin Monitoring Program Task Force Budget – SAWPA

Mark Norton presented the Draft FY 22-23 Budget for the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force for approval. This version of the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Budget for the Task Force was initially reviewed last year during the budget review for Fiscal Year 2021- 2022. Due to additional funding needs for planning priorities, it was approved by the Task Force to defer the annual contributions for the Triennial Ambient Water Quality update to be collected during Fiscal Year 2022-2023 to alleviate some of the financial burden of Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

MOVED, to approve the budget for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 for the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force, including costs covering the Planning Priorities, recurrent deliverables, regulatory support and contingency fund.

Results: **Adopted (Unanimously)**

Motion/Second: J. Shepardson/G. Woodside

Draft Comment Letter – SAWPA

Mark Norton, of SAWPA, reviewed a draft comment letter authored by Tess Dunham, of Kahn, Soares, and Conway, LLP, providing an overview of all the work that has been completed on the Basin Plan Amendment that awaits their approval. The letter has been distributed to the Task Force, just prior to the meeting.

Comments and feedback are welcome. As a reminder, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board has already approved the Basin Plan Amendment. The draft comment letter is due to the State Water Resources Control Board by April 29, 2022 at noon.

MOVED, to approve Mark Norton signing and sending the draft comment letter on the Approval of an Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana Region to Revise and Update the Total Dissolved Solids and Nitrogen Management Program to the State Water Resources Control Board on behalf of the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force.

Results: **Adopted (Unanimously)**

Motion/Second: G. Woodside/ J. Shepardson

Bunker Hill Salt & Nutrient Management Plan – SBVMWD

Matt Howard, of SBVMWD, gave a brief introduction to Water Systems Consulting's Michael Cruikshank. He provided a PowerPoint presentation titled *Salt & Nutrient Management Plan for the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed Groundwater Basins*. They have completed Phase 1 – Water Quality Characterization Ambient Water Quality (AWQ) Analysis Nitrogen Loss Coefficients for the San Bernardino Basin (SBB), which includes calculating ambient water quality, addressing the aquifer qualities, and assessing the potential water supply reliability. A summary of the AWQ Analysis for the San Bernardino Groundwater Management Zones (GMZs), is as follows:

- Updating the Aquifer Properties does not substantially change the AWQ determinations,
- Combining Bunker Hill-A, Bunker Hill-B, and Lytle GMZs does not create additional assimilative capacity for TDS or Nitrate, and
- Phase 2: Project Planning and Impact Analysis Results will inform the decision to combine GMZs or continue with individual GMZs.

Workshop 2 – Critical Analysis of SAR SNMP Ambient Water Quality and Alternative Methods to Comply Pt. 2: Consideration of Alternative Methods – West Yost

Veva Weamer, of West Yost, provided a verbal update on the Surface Water Monitoring Plan. The feedback and discussion provided at the past two workshops were being used to build a draft surface water monitoring plan. Meetings with the Regional Board will inform the ways this monitoring plan needs to support compliance in water quality moving forward. There will be an update provided at the Task Force meeting in May of 2022.

Task 2 of the BMP TF 2021-2022 Planning Priorities, Progress and Next Steps – West Yost

Samantha Adams, of West Yost, provided a PowerPoint presentation titled *Critical Analysis of AWQ Methods – Pt. 3 The Case for Prioritization*. The presentation reviewed potential changes in the way data is processed and analyzed for the many groundwater management zones within the watershed were presented. Two key priorities for the current scope of work are (1) to define groundwater monitoring program and (2) to assess current ambient water quality methodology. Tiers of prioritization, characteristic variables between the groundwater management zones, and suggestions for updating data analysis procedures were amongst the many points of discussion to indicate the level of effort that would be required for that GMZ. All suggestions aid in creating a groundwater monitoring program that is efficient and cost effective for all stakeholders, while still providing valuable information for successfully assessing and planning water resources throughout the Santa Ana River watershed.

Schedule Future Meetings

The next Basin Monitoring Program Task Force meeting, which will be conducted as a hybrid meeting (both in-person and virtual access), has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 24th, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.