

MEETING NOTES

Basin Monitoring Program Task Force May 24, 2022

STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT:

City of Beaumont, Kevin Lee*
City of Corona, Melissa Estrada*
City of Rialto, Kayla Ochoa*
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, Lenai Hunter*
Orange County Water District, Kevin O'Toole*

San Bernardino Valley Municipal WD, Matt Howard*
SBMWD/RIX JPA, Marissa Flores-Acosta*
WMWD, Anthony Budicin*
WMWD, Jennifer McMullin*
WMWD, Mallory Gandara*
YVWD, Ashley Gibson*
YVWD, Madeline Blua*
YVWD, John Wrobel*

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kahn, Soares, & Conway, 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, Garrett Rapp*
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
City of Redlands
Inland Empire Utilities Agency

Irvine Ranch Water District
Jurupa Community Services District
San Geronimo Pass Water Agency
Temescal Valley Water District

Call to Order/Introductions

The Basin Monitoring Program Task Force (Task Force) meeting commenced at 1:32 p.m. in a hybrid, in-person and virtual Zoom Meeting in compliance with COVID-19 regulations. Brief introductions were made.

Approval of April 11, 2022 Meeting Notes

The April 11, 2022 meeting notes were approved as posted.

High TDS Standing/Pooled Water in the Southwest Portion of Prado Basin - OCWD

Mark Norton introduced Kevin O'Toole, of Orange County Water District (OCWD), to discuss some standing water in the Prado Dam area. Mr. O'Toole provided a PowerPoint presentation titled *Overview of OCWD's Investigation into Source of Newly Occurring High TDS Surface water Behind Prado Dam*. Beginning in late Fall of 2021, OCWD began to notice a new pool of standing surface water near the 71 freeway and a SARI line (Inland Empire Brine Line) access road. An investigation has been in progress to determine the source of the standing water. Field samples showed extremely high levels of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS). OCWD coordinated with SAWPA to conduct samplings and determine if the standing water source was the IE Brine Line. After many detailed lab samplings, it was determined that the standing water is not from the SARI line. The TDS levels in the IE Brine Line water were lower than the levels in the newly emerged standing water. Other sources have been investigated, such as a nearby conservation pond, oil disposal pond locations and some Doggr Wells.

Discussions with the Regional Water Quality Control Board and other agencies in the area are being conducted to gain more knowledge of happenings in the area and to get ideas from anyone on what the source or cause may be for the standing water. The site is on Army Corp Of Engineers property and oil samples have come back in the last few days. A review of aerial imagery of the area over the past ten years show that this is a new occurrence of standing water, especially for the dry season. Comments and feedback

on this topic are requested and welcome by OCWD, please email Kevin O'Toole if you would like to provide any insights that you may have about the standing water near Prado Dam.

Options for Definition of Baseflow Conditions in the Santa Ana River for Assessment of Compliance with the Reach 3 Surface Water Objectives – West Yost

Veva Weamer, of West Yost, provided a PowerPoint presentation titled *Options for Definition of Base Flow Conditions in the Santa Ana River for Assessment of Compliance with the Reach 3 Surface Water Objectives*. The focus of the presentation was to review objectives and metrics for compliance in Reach 3 in the Santa Ana River. Steps taken to develop the plan for this area of the Santa Ana River included:

- Looking at daily data to define when there are Base Flow conditions,
- Evaluating available data that can be used to assess compliance for Reach 3,
- Performing an assessment of compliance with Reach 3 TDS objective with all Base Flow data; and,
- Determining monitoring needed for compliance.

Three options were provided for the monitoring of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) in the updated surface water monitoring plan for the Santa Ana River Reach 3 for TDS and Nitrogen. The three solution options were:

1. Define Base Flow conditions and use data from grab samples collected during Base Flow conditions.
2. Define Base Flow conditions and use data from USGS daily EC measurements collected during Base Flow conditions.
3. Define Base Flow conditions and use data from grab samples and from USGS daily EC measurements collected during Base Flow conditions (excluding the Regional Board samples).

West Yost's recommended option is the third option listed above. In order to move forward with West Yost's TDS recommendation, a Basin Plan Amendment will need to be prepared to clarify the definition of Base Flow conditions, annually identify days that meet Base Flow conditions, collect all grab sample data, calculate daily EC from daily TDS and compile all TDS data for Base Flow conditions for evaluation.

One option was provided for the monitoring of Total Inorganic Nitrogen (TIN) in the updated surface water monitoring plan for the Santa Ana River Reach 3 for TDS and Nitrogen. This option includes the following:

1. Define Base Flow conditions and use data from grab samples collected during Base Flow conditions (again, excluding Regional Board samples).

In order to move forward with West Yost's TIN recommendation, a Basin Plan Amendment will need to be prepared to clarify the definition of Base Flow conditions and change the TN filtered requirement, annually identify days that meet Base Flow conditions, collect all grab sample data and compile all TIN data for Base Flow conditions for evaluation.

Next steps include preparing the draft 2022 *Santa Ana River Surface Water Quality Work Plan*, sending it out to the Task Force for review and prepare a draft Basin Plan Amendment (to clarify monitoring and assessment details for Reaches 2-5), with potential specified update recommendations (above) for both TDS and TIN in Reach 3. Eric Lindberg, of the RWQCB, indicated support for eliminating Regional Board staff sampling as a component of Basin Plan compliance for Reach 3 due to the amount of data available from other sources, as described in the presentation. Tess Dunham, of Kahn, Soares, and Conway, LLP, provided a brief comment on the benefit of preparing the Basin Plan Amendment and that she can provide her support to the next amendment and work with the Regional Board as well.

Update on the Progress to Develop a Groundwater Monitoring Plan – West Yost

Samantha Adams, of West Yost, provided a PowerPoint presentation titled *Groundwater Monitoring Plan and AWQ Methods – Status Update*. Ms. Adams reviewed priorities for the Ambient Water Quality (AWQ) in (1) defining a groundwater monitoring program and (2) assess current ambient water quality methodology. Groundwater Management Zone (GMZ) monitoring plans are recommended to include characterizing each groundwater monitoring basin, understanding the regulatory factors of each GMZ, reviewing data distribution in recent AWQ analyses, and prioritizing the work for the GMZs, based on various

characteristics. Since the surface water monitoring plan update will require a Basin Plan Amendment, this is the time to provide groundwater monitoring plan

A recommended process for Recomputation of AWQ through 2021 was provided in the PowerPoint presentation. The recommendations for the updated frequency to every 5 years and incorporating any updates needed for requirements under the 2019 Recycled Water Policy, keeping in mind budgets and potential costs moving forward. Similar ideas that have been discussed previously were presented, such as maintaining key wells in the data set, especially if influential on the saturated aquifer system, and ways to improve data quality and analysis.

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 Wednesday, June 22nd, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.