

MEETING NOTES

Joint Regional Water Quality/Middle Santa Ana River TMDL Task Force

May 23, 2022

PARTICIPANTS

Abigail Suter, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Al Javier, Eastern Municipal Water District
Allison Mackenzie, Babcock Labs
Amanda Grey, UCR
Amy McNeill, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Ana Montoya-Horn, Orange County Public Works
Arlene Chun, County of San Bernardino
Barbara Barry, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Bobby Gustafson, City of Riverside RWQCP
Bruce Whitaker, SAWPA
Cassandra Sanchez, City of Eastvale
Chris Bland, County of San Bernardino Public Works
Cordell Chavez, City of Corona
Cynthia Gabaldon, County of San Bernardino
Edwin Alonzo, City of Fontana
Eric Lindberg, Regional Water Quality Control Board
James Fortuna, Orange County Public Works
Julian Chang, City of Upland
Julie Carver, City of Pomona
Kimberly Colbert, Colbert Environmental Group
Kris Hanson, City of Eastvale/Wildomar
Melanie Sotelo, CASC Engineering & Consulting, Inc.

Mike Roberts, City of Riverside
Nisha Wells, City of Chino Hills
Pamela Galera, City of Anaheim
Pat Boldt, Milk Producers Council
Rachael Johnson, RivCo Farm Bureau
Raul Gutierrez, County of San Bernardino Public Works
Ray Hiemstra, Inland Empire Waterkeeper
Rebekah Guill, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Richard Boon, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Richard Meyerhoff, GEI Consultants
Ryan Kearns, CWE
Steven Wolosoff, CDM Smith
Stormy Osifeso, City of Riverside
SueAnn Neal, Regional Water Quality Control Board T.
Milford Harrison, SAWPA
Terri Reeder, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP
Thomas Crowley, City of Rialto
William Pan, CA Department of Transportation
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 9:34 a.m. by Rick Whetsel at SAWPA with all participants participating remotely, due to COVID-19 related social distancing restrictions.

2. Approval of Meeting Notes from the April 12, 2022 MSAR Task Force Meeting

The April 12, 2022 meeting notes were approved as posted.

3. Presentation: Caltrans program to provide funding toward the installation of full trash capture (FTC) devices installed by local agencies (William Pan/CalTrans)

William Pan /CalTrans announced a Caltrans program to provide funding for the installation of full trash capture (FTC) devices by local agencies. To be eligible for the funding, the FTC project must address runoff from identified “significant trash generating areas” on Caltrans right of way.

If interested please reach out to William Pan at william.pan@dot.ca.gov or (916) 653-8257.

A copy of William Pan’s presentation is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: <https://sawpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Trash-CIA-FCO-AM-5-23-2022.pdf>

Regional Water Quality Monitoring Meeting Items:

1. Presentation: 2021-22 Santa Ana River Regional Bacteria Monitoring Program Report

Paul Caswell /CDM Smith presented on the draft 2021-22 Santa Ana River Regional Bacteria Monitoring Program Report. This included a detailed overview of water quality for each of the priority water bodies. It was noted that the monitoring location for Lake Elsinore was moved in 2021 from the Launch Pointe recreational area to Elm Grove beach, which may account for the significant change in

water quality results. Paul then informed the Task Force that the consultant team is planning to closely monitor the dry weather sampling at the Elm Grove Beach location to assess if the high bacteria levels continue and will continue to coordinate with the City on a source identification study.

Paul then discussed additional pig marker (Pig2Bac) monitoring planned for next year (2022-23) at four of the Priority 2 TMDL compliance monitoring locations (WW-M6, WW-MISSION WW-S1, and WW-S4). The plan is to analyze the results of these samples in combination with those collected in the Phase 1A Homeless Encampment study, assess whether correlation exists between gene copy and general E. coli bacteria concentrations, and provide recommendations to the Task Force on next steps.

Paul informed the Task Force that comments on the draft report are due by May 27th and the final report is due to Regional Board by June 30, 2022.

Steven Wolosoff /CDM Smith informed the Task Force that upon completing of the Bacteria Monitoring report, staff will work to wrap up revisions to the monitoring Plan and QAPP.

A copy of Paul Caswell's presentation is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: https://sawpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/052322_RMPUpdate.pdf

2. Update: Santa Ana River Homelessness Water Quality Monitoring Program Report

Richard Meyerhoff /GEI Consultants provided a brief update on the Santa Ana River Homelessness Water Quality Monitoring Program announcing that the draft report is currently under review by stakeholders, with final comments are due today. Once it's ready, the report will be uploaded to the SAWPA website.

It is planned that Richard will present to the SAWPA commission on the finding of the report on August 16th.

3. RWQM Task Force Administration (SAWPA Staff)

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA reminded the Task Force that FY 2022-23 invoices will go out in mid-July.

MSAR TMDL Meeting Items:

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

Tess Dunham presented on potential next steps for the Task Force to consider in revising the MSAR TMDL Basin Plan provisions, in particular she focused on the need to address compliance with wet weather conditions, which is currently due December 31, 2025.

She emphasized a need to update the TMDL Implementation tasks, as they are outdated and no longer recognize the evolution of the program, changes land use, and new technical information regarding potential sources. Ms. Dunham suggested to extend the wet weather compliance due date from December 31, 2025 to December 31, 2035. This would provide stakeholders additional time to gain a better understanding and develop strategies to address wet weather.

She envisioned the following Tasks to be completed under this next Phase 2 of the TMDLs:

- Task 1 – Develop Research/Study plan for wet weather Bacteria
- Task 2 – Implement Research/Study Plan for wet weather bacteria
- Task 3 – MS4s Develop Comprehensive Bacteria Reduction Plans for Wet Weather Conditions
- Task 4 – Continue to Implement Watershed-wide Bacterial Indicator Water Quality Monitoring program in conjunction with RBMP; Submit Triennial Report
- Task 5 – Implement Comprehensive Bacteria Reduction Plans for Wet Weather Conditions
- Task 6 – Review TMDLs/WLAs/Las once every 3 years

Barbara Barry /Regional Board stated she would discuss the suggested extension and schedule of deliverables with upper management and hopes to provide feedback for our next Task Force meeting.

A copy of Tess Dunham's presentation is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: https://sawpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/05_23_2022-Task-Force-Meeting-Presentation.pdf

2. Action Item: 2023 MSAR Triennial Report (SAWPA Staff)

Rick Whetsel SAWPA announced that at the April 12th meeting CDM Smith and GEI were tasked to prepare a scope of work and cost estimate to prepare the upcoming 2023 MSAR Triennial Report, for consideration by the Task Force. If approved this work would commence in the 2022-23 fiscal year with a final report due in February of 2023. A copy of the CDM Smith scope of work with a total project cost estimate of \$78,120 was distributed to the Task Force for review on May 18th, with the expectation that a decision would be made at this Task Force meeting. He stated that there are sufficient funds to cover the work required for this deliverable.

Following discussion, Arlene Chun, of San Bernardino County, moved a motion; Kimberly Colbert, of the City of Claremont, second the motion.

MOVED, to approve CDM Smith and GEI Scope of work and cost estimate to prepare the 2023 MSAR Triennial Report and authorize SAWPA to enter into an agreement with CDM Smith to conduct this work with the extension of the comment review period.

3. Status Update: Bacteria Reduction Implementation Activities

Item was deferred to a future meeting.

4. TMDL Task Force Administration (SAWPA Staff)

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA noted that staff is working on obtaining signatures for the Middle Santa Ana River TMDL Task Force Amendment. It is hoped that we will have all signatures collected in time to send out FY 2022-23 invoices scheduled to go out in mid-July.

5. Other Business

Amy McNeil, of Riverside County Flood Control & WCD, stated that they had their third and final public stakeholder event for their Stormwater Resources plan earlier in the month. There were 16 projects presented during that meeting. All 16 projects were also submitted to the One Water One Watershed (OWOW) Plan.

6. Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting will be a Joint Regional Water Quality/MSAR TMDL Task Force and is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business for review, the meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.