

## Emerging Constituents Program Task Force

July 25, 2022

### ATTENDEES:

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|---|---|
| City of Beaumont, Thaxton Van Belle*                | Riverside Public Utilities, Greg Herzog*      |
| City of Riverside, Nicole Greenwood*                | RWQCB, Cindy Li*                              |
| Dept. of Drinking Water, Faraz Asad*                | SAWPA, T. Milford Harrison*                   |
| EVMWD, Mike Ali*                                    | SAWPA, Jeffrey Mosher*                        |
| EVMWD, Sudhir Mohleji*                              | SAWPA, Mark Norton*                           |
| EMWD, Al Javier*                                    | SAWPA, Jessica McDermott*                     |
| EMWD, Doug Edwards*                                 | SAWPA, Haley Mullay*                          |
| IEUA, Richard Lao*                                  | SBMWD/RIX, Marissa Flores-Acosta*             |
| IRWD, Jim Colston*                                  | SBMWD/RIX, Jennifer Shepardson*               |
| JPW Communications, Annie Pierce*                   | SBVMWD, Matt Howard*                          |
| JPW Communications, Chad McLain*                    | SCCWRP, Alvina Mehinto*                       |
| Kahn, Soares, & Conway, LLP, Theresa (Tess) Dunham* | West Yost, Lucy Hedley*                       |
| OCSD, Matt Smith*                                   | WMWD, Anthony Budicin*                        |
| OCWD, Jason Dadakis*                                | Yorba Linda Water District, Rosanne Weston*   |
| OCWD, Lily Sanchez*                                 | Yucaipa Valley Water District, Ashley Gibson* |
| Riverside Public Utilities, Farid Boushaki*         | *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 April 4, 2022 Meeting Notes

Meeting notes were approved as posted.

### PFAS Regional Analysis Phase I Status – SAWPA

Mark Norton, of SAWPA, introduced Jeffrey Mosher, General Manager of SAWPA, to give a verbal update on the Request for Proposals (RFP) for PFAS Regional Analysis Phase 1. Since the last meeting, SAWPA worked with its Member Agencies, as well as OC Sanitation District, to develop a scope of work for an assessment of PFAS in the watershed. The RFP was released and a consultant was selected from the responses to the posted RFP. Details will be shared with the group as they are available.

### SAWPA Compilation Watershed PFAS Monitoring Data Report – SAWPA

SAWPA staff compiled PFAS water quality data for the Santa Ana River Watershed, from the sampling requirements imposed in 2021 by the State Water Board. The resulting report was posted on the SAWPA website for reference, as needed. A new PFAS monitoring compilation report is not expected to be needed for the next fiscal year.

### SWRCB CEC Aquatic Ecosystems Panel and SAR Watershed CEC/Bioassay Study Status Report– SCCWRP

Dr. Alvina Mehinto, of SCCWRP, provided a verbal report on the status on the SAR Watershed CEC/Bioassay Study. This study required sampling during both the wet and dry seasons for the past year. Samples were collected at the many sites that were chosen with the EC Program Task Force. Eurofins laboratory tested the samples for water quality; results from the laboratory tests are being loaded into the SWAMP format for the SWAMP database. The data and analysis will be submitted to the Regional Board, and then can be shared with those that are interested. Cell bioassays are completed for the dry season sampling and wet season samples are pending. The investigative study is anticipated to be completed within the next six months.

Dr. Alvina Mehinto also provided a verbal update on the Aquatic Systems Panel. The panel is finalizing the framework to allow the State to process issues on CEC more effectively. They have recently been given an extension of a year to finish going through the data and making decisions on chemicals that will be monitored.

### **Overview of Regional Board PFAS Source Investigations – Regional Board**

Mark Norton, of SAWPA, introduced Cindy Li, of Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), to give updates on the following items.

#### **a. Temescal Creek/Corona Area**

Cindy Li, of RWQCB, provided a verbal update on the Temescal Creek and Corona area. All American Asphalt has been required to sample their dewatering pond, upstream and downstream of Temescal Canyon Lake for PFAS. The discharger responded that they were working with lake owner to gain access to the lake for sampling.

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

Cindy Li, of RWQCB, provided a verbal update on landfills. They were required to expand PFAS sampling to a few more monitoring wells. There was also an update on the Department of Defense PFAS investigation at March Air Force Reserve base. The site investigation and work plan have both been completed. The field work was started in March of 2022, expected results to be complete in early 2023. Details will be shared when available. For Norton Air Force Base, an additional PFAS investigation is planned for 2022-24. For Ontario Air Force station, preliminary assessments in 2015 were that there were no additional investigations required for this area. For El Toro, the site investigation was expanded and was completed in July 2022. The field work was scheduled for July of 2022, with the remedial work plan anticipated to be received by RWQCB in August 2022. For Tustin, the remedial investigation work plan is expected late 2022, with field work scheduled for early 2023. For Los Alamitos, the final site inspection report was completed in August 2021. The remedial investigation work plan was received by the RWQCB in June 2022. Some details are on hold while the EPA updates their details and requirements regarding PFAS and the work plans.

### **Regulatory Report and Updates – KSC**

Tess Dunham, of KSC, provided updates on PFAS and microplastics regulations.

#### **a. PFAS Update**

Tess Dunham, of KSC, provided an update on the PFAS regulations. The EPA has put out health advisory levels on the contaminants known as PFOA, PFOS, PFBS, and PFHxS. There is no new information from the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) or when they will be implementing their health advisory levels. The peer review on the Draft Public Health Goals has been completed. The draft document and the peer review feedback has been posted to their website for anyone to review, if interested.

Ms. Dunham also provided information on available funding provided for PFAS Drinking Water treatment of \$50 million for Fiscal Years 2022-23 and \$20 million for Fiscal Year 2023-24 through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Intended Use Plan and the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water (SADW) Fund Expenditure Plan.

Additional orders for drinking water system sampling using EPA's new method are coming in September of 2022. Later in 2022, OEHHA is expected to set Public Health Goals. 2023 is expected to bring EPA issued Maximum Contaminant Levels with a possible designation of PFOA/PFOS as

hazardous substance. In 2025, Maximum Contaminant Levels are expected from the State Department of Drinking Water.

**b. Proposition 65 Developments**

No discussion.

**c. Any New Statewide Investigation Orders**

No discussion.

**Regulatory Report and Updates – KSC**

Annie Pierce and Chad McLain, of JPW Communications, provided updates on the social media efforts and Your So Cal Tap Water blog. They thanked all the stakeholders for their support and sharing of social media posts to increase traffic on the Your So Cal Tap Water accounts across multiple social media sites; it's helped increase the engagement of each post. They reviewed some of the more popular posts over the past year, and Chad McLain reviewed the planned content calendar for the upcoming Fiscal Year. The content calendar will be distributed to the Task Force following the meeting for review and comment. Any feedback is requested, and encouraged, please send those comments to Annie Pierce or Chad McLain for the planned content for the next year.

**Schedule Future Meeting**

The next Emerging Constituents Program Task Force is scheduled for Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.