

Emerging Constituents Program Task Force

October 31, 2022

ATTENDEES:

City of Riverside, Bobby Gustafson*	OCWD, Jason Dadakis*
City of Rialto, Thomas Crowley*	OCWD, Patrick Versluis*
City of Rialto, Thomas Crowley*	Riverside Public Utilities, Farid Boushaki*
EVMWD, Lenai Hunter*	RWQCB, Eric Lindberg*
EVMWD, Sudhir Mohleji*	RWQCB, Jayne Joy*
EMWD, Al Javier*	RWQCB, Maile Gee*
IEUA, Bonita Fan*	RWQCB, Pamela Ybarra*
IEUA, Richard Lao*	SAWPA, T. Milford Harrison*
IRWD, Jim Colston*	SAWPA, Jeffrey Mosher*
JCSD, Kirols Nashed*	SAWPA, Rachel Gray*
JCSD, Marce Billings*	SAWPA, Mark Norton*
JPW Communications, Mary Elise Conzelmann*	SAWPA, Rick Whetsel*
Kahn, Soares, & Conway, LLP, Theresa (Tess) Dunham*	SAWPA, Haley Mullay*
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Ai Jia*	SBMWD/RIX, Marissa Flores-Acosta*
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Carrie Guo*	WMWD, Jennifer McMullin*
OCSD, Matt Smith*	Yorba Linda Water District, Rosanne Weston*
OCWD, Crystal Nettles*	Yucaipa Valley Water District, Ashley Gibson*

*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 July 25, 2022 Meeting Notes

Meeting notes were approved as posted.

EC Program Task Force Budget – SAWPA

Mark Norton, of SAWPA, introduced a draft budget for the SAWPA Emerging Constituents Program Task Force. The funding amount requested includes funding for the expenses of task force consultant, Tess Dunham of KSC; public outreach support consultant; and SAWPA staff task force support. No significant sampling program for ECs is anticipated for next fiscal year but carryover funds are available should the need arise. Mr. Norton indicated that a draft budget for next fiscal year is being presented early since several agencies are requesting advance notice of their task force budget allocations for the coming fiscal year. Mr. Norton answered a few questions and thereafter task force was supportive of taking action on approving the EC Program Task Force budget.

MOVED, to approve the budget for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 for the Emerging Constituents Program Task Force, including costs covering, recurrent deliverables, regulatory support and social media/Public Relations support.

Results: **Adopted (Unanimously)**

Motion/Second: T. Crowley/B. Gustafson

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

There were no updates to provide to the Task Force. Dr. Alvina Mehinto, of SCCWRP, will be out on maternity leave November 2022 through January 2023.

Overview of Regional Board PFAS Source Investigations – Regional Board

Mark Norton, of SAWPA, introduced Eric Lindberg, of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, to give a PowerPoint presentation updating the group titled *Overview of Regional Board PFAS Source Investigations*. Since 2019, investigative orders were issued to the following industries: municipal solid waste landfills, commercial airports, suspected chromium plating facilities, wastewater treatment plants, refineries and bulk terminals, drinking water supply wells, and possibly fire training areas. Specific water quality data was utilized throughout the PowerPoint presentation to demonstrate the trends in PFAS/PFOS/PFOA concentrations.

a. Temescal Creek/Corona Area

Mr. Lindberg shared that this area as the more striking indication of PFAS in the watershed where the concentrations are quite high.

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

Mr. Lindberg shared that data shows that groundwater quality near landfills, airports and military bases were locations that correlated with higher concentrations of the PFAS/PFOS/PFOA concentrations. Other areas, that have been more recently been the focus of recent investigations include Chromium Plating Facilities and Bulk Fuel Terminals. Several of these facilities are in the midst of submitting questionnaires and responding with work plans on addressing the water quality impacted areas.

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. AB 2771 and AB 1817, both effective January 2025, prohibit the use of PFAS that is intentionally added to cosmetics and certain textile uses, respectively. New funding for Emerging Contaminants is going to be provided by the State, reallocated from the Drinking Water SRF (\$66,649,000) and Clean Water SRF (\$6,687,000). The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed the designation of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) as part of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), with public comments due before November 7, 2022. The Department of Drinking Water proposed a notification level of 2 ng/L for perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHXS) and a response level of 20 ng/L for PFHXS.

b. Proposition 65 Developments

No discussion.

c. Any New Statewide Investigation Orders

No discussion.

Your SoCal Tap Water Outreach - JPW Communications

Mary Elise Conzelmann, of JPW Communications, provided updates on the social media efforts and Your So Cal Tap Water blog. In September 2022, there was a 30% increase in website visits and webpage traffic. The months of November and December are anticipated to be a slower time for viewership due to the holidays. The same content calendar that was shared at the last meeting is still being followed for the upcoming content on the blog and social media sites.

Schedule Future Meeting

The next Emerging Constituents Program Task Force is scheduled for Monday, January 30th, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.