

Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force

February 15, 2023

PARTICIPANTS PRESENT:

Abigail Suter, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD	Natasha Thandi, Caltrans (MBI)
Aldo Licitra, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD	Nick Amini, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Adam Gufarotti, City of Lake Elsinore	Pat Boldt, WRCAC
Barbara Barry, Regional Water Quality Control Board	Patrick Lewis, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Ben Foster, City of Lake Elsinore	Paul Senker, GEI Consultants
Chris Stransky, WSP USA	Rachael Johnson, Riverside County Farm Bureau
Carlos Norvani, City of Lake Elsinore	Rae Beimer, City of Moreno Valley
Cynthia Gabaldon, City of Menifee, Perris, and March JPA	Rebekah Guill, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Dale Welty, City of Canyon Lake	Richard Boon, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Dave Woelfel, Regional Water Quality Control Board	Richard Meyerhoff, GEI Consultants
Dustin Christensen, City of Beaumont	Rohini Mustafa, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Garth Engelhorn, NV5	Scott Sewell, CDFW
Jim Klang, WRCAC	Stefan Awender, CDFW
John Rudolph, WSP USA	Steve Strapac, City of Menifee
Johnathan Oliver Skinner, City of Lake Elsinore	Steven Wolosoff, GEI Consultants
Kelsey Reed, City of Canyon Lake (Willdan)	Stormy Osifeso, City of Riverside
Kris Hanson, City of Wildomar (Interwest)	Sudhir Mohleji, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Lauren Briggs, Regional Water Quality Control Board	SueAnn Neal, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Lauren Sotelo, March JPA	Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP
Lenai Hunter, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District	Bruce Whitaker, SAWPA
Liselle DeGrave, DeGrave Communications	T Milford Harrison, SAWPA
Lynn Merrill, City of San Jacinto	Mark Norton, SAWPA
Michael Roberts, City of Riverside	Rachel Gray, SAWPA
Nancy Gardiner, Haley & Aldrich Inc.	Rick Whetsel, SAWPA

Call to Order & Introductions

The Lake Elsinore/Canyon Lake TMDL Task (Task Force) meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Rick Whetsel, with all participants participating remotely.

Approval of Meeting Notes from January 10, 2023 Task Force Meeting

The January 10, 2023 meeting notes were approved as posted.

Status: Regional Board Update (Regional Board)

Barbara Barry, Regional Board, informed the Task Force that Freshwater and Estuarine Harmful Algal Bloom (FHAB) Program Monitoring for Lake Elsinore by Regional Board is complete and that due to the lack of available funding no future regular monitoring for Lake Elsinore is planned, but there has been great discussion with State Board, City of Lake Elsinore and WSP USA staff regarding the sharing of data. The latest FHAB results shared by WSP USA showed microcystin levels to be below danger concentrations and with that Regional Board has downgraded the recommendation for Lake Elsinore to the warning level, at which the lake is open to boating, but body contact recreation is still not recommended.

Barbara then informed the Task Force that Regional Board staff has provided feedback to Tess and the consulting team in the LE&CL TMDL Implementation Plan and is moving forward on the Response to Peer Review comments.

Additionally, the Regional Board has offered to extend the position for David Woelfel to support the Basin Plan Amendments through the end of the fiscal year. It is currently being reviewed by Human Resources.

Tess requested that Barbara update the Task Force on the report given to the Regional Board at their February 3rd meeting on the 2024 Integrated Report. Barbara then went on to state that within the Region seven waterbodies, including Lake Elsinore, have been listed for microcystins and antitoxin a on the proposed 303(d)

list for the 2024 cycle. The Regional Board has posted a Public Notice on their website announcing the release for Public Review of the draft Staff Report and 303(d) list for Region 8. The Public Review period is to begin on Friday, February 17th and will continue on through Monday, April 3rd. The State Board will be hosting a workshop to inform the Board on the 303(d) listings from all of the on cycle Regions on Tuesday, March 21st.

Tess inquired, on behalf of the Task Force, with the potential listing of Lake Elsinore is there the opportunity to avoid a separate cyanotoxin TMDL for Lake Elsinore if the Task Force were able to address cyanotoxins through the current nutrient TMDL update. Barbara responded that she does not want to sacrifice the current momentum that exists with revising the nutrient TMDLs, but she thought it would be worth discussing.

Chris Stransky, WSP USA noted that a TMDL focused on cyanotoxins would be challenging, but that WSP USA will be working closely with the State and Regional Board on a tiered monitoring approach for Lake Elsinore. Barbara stated that there is an existing TMDL that addresses cyanotoxins and that she will review to see what information can be gained.

Staff will send the announcement for the March 21st State Board Workshop when it becomes available.

Update: TMDL Implementation Plan (Tess Dunham, KSC and Steve Wolosoff, GEI Consultants)

Steven Wolosoff, GEI Consultants provided a brief overview of today's TMDL Implementation Plan discussion topics to cover, which included: updates to the stakeholder's jurisdictions, updates to the watershed model, phase 3 (years 21-30) implementation tasks and updates to other projects. He then introduced Paul Senker, GEI Consultants to present on the updates to the stakeholder's jurisdictions.

Of note, Pat Boldt informed the Task Force that agriculture in the San Jacinto Watershed will no longer be subject to the Conditional Waiver on Agricultural Discharges (CWAD), but will now be under a Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) to be consistent with the State Board precedent.

Tess Dunham, of Kahn, Soares, and Conway, LLP, followed with a presentation and discussion on considerations regarding the expression of wasteload and load allocations in permits.

Copies of these presentations are available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: <https://sawpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/February-15-2023-Task-Force-Meeting.pdf>.

Update: Canyon Lake Alum Application (LESJWA Staff)

Rick Whetsel provided a brief update on the possibility of a spring 2023 Canyon Lake Alum application, reviewing the protocol for what qualifies for the need of a spring application. The guidance for conducting a spring alum application, states as follows "review February Sample, is the depth integrated average TP concentration greater than 0.1 mg/L at any site?" Currently, we are waiting on the latest, February Canyon Lake monitoring results from WSP USA.

Lynn Merrill, representing the City of San Jacinto, made a motion to provide LESJWA staff in coordination with the Task Force consulting team the authority to make a determination on the need for a Spring 2023 alum application based upon review of the February 2023 Canyon Lake monitoring results to be provided by WSP USA. This motion was seconded by Rae Beimer representing the City of Moreno Valley. Following brief discussion the motion was unanimously passed by the Task force.

MOVED, to provide LESJWA staff in coordination with the Task Force consulting team the authority to make a determination on the need for a Spring 2023 alum application based upon review of the February 2023 Canyon Lake monitoring results to be provided by WSP USA.

Following a decision by LESJWA staff in coordination with the Task Force consulting team, staff will notify Task Force stakeholders of the plan of action.

Update: Lake Elsinore Lake Elsinore Algae Harvesting

Prop 1 Rd 1 grant funded Innovative Algae Harvesting Technologies (WSP USA)

John Rudolph, representing WSP USA, reminded the Task Force that a draft final report is expected to be released in March 2023.

Prop 1 Rd 2 grant application AECOM Algae Harvesting Technology (LESJWA Staff)

Rick Whetsel provided a brief update on the Prop 1 Rd 2 grant application for the pilot testing of the AECOM Algae Harvesting Technology at Lake Elsinore, informing the Task Force that the application was successfully submitted by SAWPA and that DWR is expected to announce awards in July 2023.

Task Force Administration (LESJWA Staff)

Status: FY 2023-24 Budget

Rick Whetsel reminded the Task Force that a draft FY 2023-24 budget (that was shared with stakeholder via email on November 21, 2022) was approved by the LE&CL Task Force members by email vote on January 31, 2023.

Other Business

Tess Dunhan reminded the Task Force of the upcoming Public Review comment period (beginning on Friday, February 17th and ending on Monday, April 3rd) for the draft Staff Report and 303(d) list for Region 8. She suggested that there are some items that stakeholders may consider commenting on. She will review and possibly bring a draft letter for Stakeholders to review for our next meeting. To follow-up, Barbara informed the Task Force that there are no recommended delisting in this 2024 303(d) listing cycle.

Schedule Next Meeting

The next LE/CL TMDL Task Force meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. as a remote Zoom meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Table Summary of Agreements and Actions

Date of Action/Agreement	Action/Agreement	Responsible Entities Reaching Agreement
September 28, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve funding in the amount of up to \$30,000 to CDM Smith to assist Task Force technical issues, including but not limited to, initial discussions regarding content and scope of TMDL Implementation Plan revisions should the Task Force decide to provide resources for further revising the 2018 draft TMDL. 	Voting Task Force members.
November 3, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve moving forward with the proposed step-wise approach to updating the TMDL Technical Report and its timeline. 	Voting Task Force members
January 10, 2022	-	-
March 2, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Task Force agreed to submit a comment letter to the Draft Staff Working Proposal for MS4 Permit by March 18, 2022. Regional Board confirmed that they would accept the comments past their soft deadline of March 10. Approved the alum application to the Canyon Lake if the February monitoring data exceeds 0.09. 	Voting Task Force members
April 20, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved execution of the Key Principles for Technical TMDL Revision by Mark, Norton Task Force Administrator on behalf of the voting members of the task force subject to revisions discussed at the 4/20/2022 task force meeting. Approved submittal of the Task Force Comment letter to Regional Board on the Staff Working Proposal for the MS4 Permit upon revision discussed at the 4/20/2022 task force meeting. Regional Board abstained from action and conversation of this matter. Approved amendment #3 to extend the LE/CL TMDL Task Force Agreement for a period of three years to June 30, 2025, with the option that the Agreement, while still in full force and effect, may be extended an additional two years, to June 30, 2027, by means of Administrative Action by the Task Force Administrator 	Voting Task Force members; Excludes Regional Board in relation to the Comment Letter to Regional Board on the Staff Working Proposal for the MS4 Permit.
June 27, 2022	-	-
August 17, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved execution of the Key Principles for Technical TMDL Revision by Mark Norton, Task Force Administrator on behalf of the voting members of the LE&CL TMDL Task Force. Approved a proposal by CDM Smith and a recommendation to the LESJWA Board to authorize a Task Order to update and revise the technical document and additional TMDL technical support services. 	Mark Norton, Task Force Administrator on behalf of the voting members of the LE&CL TMDL Task Force
September 27, 2022	-	-
November 14, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfer the remaining balance of the contract work supported by Steven Wolosoff as of December 31, 2022 from CDM Smith and enter into an agreement with GEI Consultants to complete work starting on January 1 2023. Exercise an option for a two year extension with WSP USA to oversee and implement TMDL Compliance Monitoring Program. 	Voting Task Force members
January 10, 2023	-	-

Table Summary of Agreements and Actions (Continuation)

Date of Action/Agreement	Action/Agreement	Responsible Entities Reaching Agreement
February 15, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Task Force moved to provide LESJWA staff in coordination with the Task Force consulting team the authority to make a determination on the need for a Spring 2023 alum application based upon review of the February 2023 Canyon Lake monitoring results to be provided by WSP USA. 	Voting Task Force members.