

MEETING NOTES

Basin Monitoring Program Task Force May 1, 2023

STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT:

City of Beaumont, Kevin Lee*
City of Beaumont, Thaxton Van Belle*
City of Corona, Melissa Estrada*
City of Redlands, Jung Joon Park*
City of Rialto, Thomas Crowley*
Eastern Municipal WD, Al Javier*
Eastern Municipal WD, Doug Edwards*
Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Jesus Gastelum*

Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Lenai Hunter*
Inland Empire Utilities Agency, John Russ*
Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Pietro Cambiaso*
Orange County Water District, Kevin O'Toole*
San Bernardino Valley MWD, Adekunle Ojo*
WMWD/WRCRWA, Jennifer McMullin*
YVWD, Ashley Gibson*
YVWD, John Wrobel*

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kahn, Soares, & Conway, Theresa (Tess) Dunham*
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Bruce Whitaker*
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Gil Botello*
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, T. Milford Harrison*
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Ian Achimore*
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Mark Norton*

Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Rachel Gray*
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Haley Gohari*
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Cindy Li*
WSC, Michael Cruikshank*
West Yost, Samantha Adams*
West Yost, Sodavy Ou*

*Participated via conference call

STAKEHOLDERS ABSENT:

Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
Chino Basin Water Master
City of Banning
City of Riverside

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

Call to Order/Introductions

The Basin Monitoring Program Task Force (Task Force) meeting commenced at 9:01 a.m. in a virtual Zoom Meeting, in response to, and in compliance with, COVID-19 regulations. Brief introductions were made.

Approval of March 27, 2023 Meeting Notes

The March 27, 2023 meeting notes were approved as posted.

Recent Integrated Report Developments – Tess Dunham

Tess Dunham, of Kahn, Soares, and Conway, LLP, provided a verbal update on the 2024 Integrated Report. The collaborative comment letter from the Task Force was submitted. Meetings with the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the State Water Board staff and board members were held to discuss the comment letter and address some of the unique areas of the watershed. Meetings regarding the Integrated Report are ongoing and updates will be provided at future Task Force meetings.

Basin Plan Amendment Update – Tess Dunham

Ms. Dunham provided a PowerPoint presentation titled *Basin Monitoring Task Force*. Ms. Dunham reviewed the various components of the TDS/Nitrogen Management Plan and compared them with the requirements of the 2019 Recycled Water Policy. There are 5 required compliance components of the Recycled Water Policy:

- 6.2.4.1. – Monitoring Plan that includes appropriate network of monitoring locations.
- 6.2.4.2. – Water recycling use goals and objectives.
- 6.2.4.3. – Salt and nutrient source identification, basin or subbasin assimilative capacity and estimates, together with fate and transport of salts and nutrients.
- 6.2.4.4. – Implementation measures to manage or reduce salt and nutrient loading in Basin.
- 6.2.4.5. – Antidegradation Analysis to satisfy 68-16.

Ms. Dunham reviewed the ways that the Task Force and the TDS/Nitrogen Management Plan provisions that satisfy the 2019 Recycled Water Policy requirements. She also provided the following suggestions for the TDS/Nitrogen Management Plan:

- Add in summary paragraph about water recycling use goals and objectives.
- Add in implementation summary for other sources of TDS and Nitrogen to Groundwater (such as Dairy General Order Language, General Order for Irrigated Ag in San Jacinto River Watershed, etc.)
- Add in brief summary about compliance with Antidegradation Policy

The anticipated schedule for the next steps and work on the draft Basin Plan Amendment was reviewed as shown below:

Activity	Timing
Circulate draft Basin Plan Amendments for review & comment Clarifying amendments Additional revisions to TDS/Nitrogen Management Plan	May 30 – June 12, 2023
Circulate draft Resolution & Declaration of Conformance	June 26 – July 17, 2023
Circulate draft Substitute Environmental Document & Staff Report in support of Amendments	July 31 – August 14, 2023
Re-circulate all documents with revisions; Circulate draft Resolution of Adoption	September 5 – 19, 2023
Provide Draft Package to Santa Ana Water Board staff	October 1, 2023

Los Angeles Waterkeeper v. State Water Resources Control Board – West Yost

Tess Dunham, of Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP, provided a verbal report on a recent court case between Los Angeles Waterkeeper and the State Water Resources Control Board for the issuance of POTW facilities in the Los Angeles region, stating that the discharge from the facilities was an “unreasonable use” of the water and that the water should be recycled. In regard to the issue with the recycled water and the POTW permits, the courts determined that there was no action that LA Waterkeeper could bring against the State to force them to require more water be recycled instead of discharged. The decision was certified for publication which gives it precedential value throughout the state as well.

Schedule and Next Steps for Surface Water Monitoring Items – Ian Achimore

Ian Achimore, of SAWPA, provided a verbal report on the TDS and TIN Surface Water Monitoring Program that was submitted to the Regional Water Quality Control Board prior to the March 31 deadline. The new monitoring program will be developed through a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) to encapsulate all the details of the future quarterly monitoring that the Task Force will be completing. The data collected from the monitoring will then inform the annual surface water quality report that will also be updated. Mr. Achimore provided a schedule (linked below) regarding the approximate timing of the Surface Water Monitoring items that need to be completed as well as the procurement process to bring on consultant help to complete the QAPP and new monitoring preparation.

2021 Ambient Water Quality Pilot Study – Michael Cruikshank, WSC and Samantha Adams, West Yost

a. Standard AWQ Method and Storage Model Update for Yucaipa GMZ

Michael Cruikshank, of WSC, provided a PowerPoint presentation titled *Pilot Assessment of Ambient Water Quality* (AWQ). For the 2021 AWQ, the standard methodology will be applied to the maximum benefit groundwater management zones (GMZs): Beaumont, Chino North, Cucamonga, Elsinore, San Jacinto Upper Pressure, San Timoteo, and Yucaipa; with the pilot study to update aquifer storage model will be applied to

Yucaipa only. Mr. Cruikshank went through an overview of the standard methodology as well as some details about the aquifer storage updates on the Yucaipa GMZ.

b. Feedback on Simplified Approach for Calculating AWQ

Samantha Adams, of West Yost, provided a PowerPoint presentation titled *2021 Ambient Water Quality Pilot Study: Draft Simplified Methodology*. Ms. Adams focused on responding to comments and feedback from OCWD on the Simplified Methodology for the Ambient Water Quality Pilot Study.

Review of Draft Criteria for Defining Data Gaps – Samantha Adams

Samantha Adams, of West Yost, provided a verbal presentation with a handout titled *Development of a Framework to Identify and Address Potential Data Gaps in the GMZ Monitoring Network – Next Steps*. In-person meetings have been set up to facilitate focus on specific GMZs and identify potential data gaps and defining the criteria that will dictate where those gaps are within each GMZ. The handout provides all of the draft criteria and should be reviewed prior to the individual GMZ meetings. Please note that meetings will happen in-person on May 15th and May 17th at SAWPA and May 16th meetings will take place at San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District.

Schedule Future Meeting

The next Basin Monitoring Program Task Force meeting, which will be conducted as a virtual Zoom meeting, has been scheduled for Thursday, June 1, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Mark Norton, long-time administrator of the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force announced that this would be his last meeting before he retires from SAWPA. Many of the Task Force members thanked Mr. Norton for his time and efforts on behalf of the Task Force and wished him well on his pathway to retirement.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.