

## Emerging Constituents Program Task Force

January 30, 2023

### ATTENDEES:

<b>City of Beaumont</b> , Thaxton Van Belle*	<b>Riverside Public Utilities</b> , Farid Boushaki*
<b>City of Beaumont</b> , Kevin Lee*	<b>RWQCB</b> , Eric Lindberg*
<b>City of Riverside</b> , Bobby Gustafson*	<b>RWQCB</b> , Maile Gee*
<b>City of Riverside</b> , Michael Plinski*	<b>RWQCB</b> , Pamela Ybarra*
<b>City of Rialto</b> , Thomas Crowley*	<b>SAWPA</b> , Bruce Whitaker*
<b>Dept. of Drinking Water</b> , Faraz Asad*	<b>SAWPA</b> , Kelly Rowe*
<b>EVMWD</b> , Mike Ali*	<b>SAWPA</b> , T. Milford Harrison*
<b>EVMWD</b> , Sudhir Mohleji*	<b>SAWPA</b> , Rachel Gray*
<b>EMWD</b> , Erin Guererro*	<b>SAWPA</b> , Mark Norton*
<b>Eurofins</b> , Lauren Collins*	<b>SAWPA</b> , Ian Achimore*
<b>IEUA</b> , Bonita Fan*	<b>SAWPA</b> , Rick Whetsel*
<b>IEUA</b> , Richard Lao*	<b>SAWPA</b> , Mikayla Coleman*
<b>IRWD</b> , Jim Colston*	<b>SAWPA</b> , Haley Gohari*
<b>JPW Communications</b> , Leslie Spring*	<b>SBVMWD</b> , Devin Arciniega*
<b>Kahn, Soares, &amp; Conway, LLP</b> , Theresa (Tess) Dunham*	<b>SCCWRP</b> , Charles Wong*
<b>OCSD</b> , Matt Smith*	<b>West Yost</b> , Lucy Hedley*
<b>OCWD</b> , Crystal Nettles*	<b>WMWD</b> , Jennifer McMullin*
<b>OCWD</b> , Jason Dadakis*	<b>Yorba Linda Water District</b> , Rosanne Weston*
<b>OCWD</b> , Patrick Versluis*	*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.

### Task Force Administration

Mark Norton, administrator of the Emerging Constituents Program Task Force at SAWPA, will be retiring from SAWPA at the end of May 2023. Mr. Norton introduced Rachel Gray, the new Water Resources and Planning Manager hired in October of 2022 as his replacement at SAWPA. He also introduced Ian Achimore, a Senior Watershed Project Manager at SAWPA, who will be taking over as the new administrator of the Task Force moving forward.

### Approval of October 31, 2022 Meeting Notes

Meeting notes were approved as posted.

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

Charles Wong, Ph.D., of SCCWRP, provided a PowerPoint presentation for the group titled *Science Advisory Panel for Constituents of Emerging Concern (CECs) in California's Aquatic Ecosystems*. Dr. Wong provided a brief background on the panel and its origin. The original panel formed a scientific advisory panel to produce a report in 2012 to recommend a framework for chemicals that should be monitored. This field has expanded greatly over the past decade and the panel came back together in late 2020 to address two new major goals:

- Re-evaluate CEC strategy based on any newly understood CEC information/technology and update recommendations; and,
- Provide recommendations for monitoring program development for the State.

Four goals were the focus of the panel, with explanation provided on the PowerPoint presentation:

- Provide guidance for structure, quality assurance and visualization of CECs covered by existing State Water Board CEC dataset,
- Provide guidance to use other sources to inform CEC monitoring program,
- Provide updated risk-based approach to assess and identify CECs for monitoring; and,
- Establishing sound foundation for state-wide and regional CEC monitoring programs.

More information on the panel and their research can be found at: <https://www.sccwrp.org/about/research-areas/emerging-contaminants/cec-ecosystems-panel/>.

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

Ian Achimore, of SAWPA, introduced Eric Lindberg, of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, to give a verbal report to update the Task Force. 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.

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

No updates to provide at this time.

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

Mr. Lindberg shared that a “No Further Action” letter has been issued to one of the former Exxon Mobil terminals and a follow up letter including a work plan response has been sent to John Wayne Airport. Some of the questionnaires from the chromium platers are still being reviewed, and some of the chromium platers have received follow up letters to further inquire after the Regional Board received their initial questionnaire responses.

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

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

#### **a. PFAS and ECs Updates**

Ms. Dunham explained that the State Board put out a new policy handbook that was released in August 2022 for monitoring microplastics in drinking water. Those policies seem to be going into effect in Fall of 2023. Only one bill has been introduced thus far regarding microplastics, but Ms. Dunham will make sure to provide updates as any other bills are introduced. Ms. Dunham also provided an update on the PFAS regulations. CalEnviroScreen 4.0 was released in early December. The State Water Board released a new monitoring order for drinking water wells and water systems; many agencies are subject to this new order with reporting starting quarterly in 2023.

#### **b. Any New Statewide Investigation Orders**

No discussion.

### **EC Program Task Force Public Outreach Support - JPW Communications**

Leslie Spring, of JPW Communications, provided the planned social media efforts and Your SoCal Tap Water blog content for 2023. JPW Communications met with SAWPA’s Communications Specialist to collaborate on ideas on how to inject more personality and increase content on the blog as well as integrating partner agencies to the content. Ms. Spring reviewed some analytics from 2022: engagement on Twitter increase, Facebook had some decreases in engagement compared to previous years. Mr. Achimore asked if there are some tips on how to increase the new user engagement; Ms. Spring is hopeful that increasing activity on the social media pages as well as increasing any cross posting of content across partner agencies’ social media accounts should aide in achieving that goal.

**SAWPA TF Administration and Future Survey - SAWPA**

Mark Norton, of SAWPA, provided a brief explanation for an upcoming survey for the Task Force stakeholders. The survey hopes to obtain comments or feedback on the future of this Task Force and how the group can achieve goals and support the stakeholders in the most optimal way possible. A survey will be distributed via email in the coming weeks.

**Schedule Future Meeting**

The next Emerging Constituents Program Task Force is scheduled for Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.