

Emerging Constituents Program Task Force

April 24, 2023

ATTENDEES:

Babcock Laboratories , Rachel Cahill*	OCWD , Jason Dadakis*
City of Beaumont , Thaxton Van Belle*	OCWD , Patrick Versluis*
City of Riverside , Bobby Gustafson*	Riverside Public Utilities , Greg Herzog*
EVMWD , Mike Ali*	RWQCB , Cindy Li*
EVWMD , Lenai Hunter*	RWQCB , Eric Lindberg*
EVMWD , Sudhir Mohleji*	RWQCB , Maile Gee*
EMWD , Al Javier*	SAWPA , Bruce Whitaker*
EMWD , Erin Guererro*	SAWPA , Gil Botello*
Eurofins , Lauren Collins*	SAWPA , T. Milford Harrison*
IEUA , Bonita Fan*	SAWPA , Edina Goode*
IEUA , Richard Lao*	SAWPA , Rachel Gray*
IEUA , Sushmitha Reddy*	SAWPA , Mark Norton*
IRWD , Jim Colston*	SAWPA , Ian Achimore*
JCSD , Aaron Anderson*	SAWPA , Rick Whetsel*
JCSD , Marce Billings*	SAWPA , Haley Gohari*
JPW Communications , Leslie Spring*	SCCWRP , Alvina Mehinto*
Kahn, Soares, & Conway, LLP , Theresa (Tess) Dunham*	West Yost , Lucy Hedley*
OCS , Matt Smith*	WMWD , Jennifer McMullin*
OCWD , Crystal Nettles*	YVWD , Ashley Gibson*

*Participation via conference call

Introductions

The Emerging Constituents (EC) Program Task Force (Task Force) meeting was called to order at 2:31 p.m. in a virtual Zoom Meeting. Brief introductions were made.

Approval of January 30, 2023 Meeting Notes

Meeting notes were approved as posted.

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

Dr. Alvina Mehinto, of SCCWRP, provided a brief verbal update. There are no status updates to provide regarding the work being conducted by *Science Advisory Panel for Constituents of Emerging Concern (CECs) in California's Aquatic Ecosystems*. The panel is working on addressing the comments that were provided on their findings report, as well as working towards finalizing the draft report. The report is due at the end of May 2023. Dr. Charles Wong, whom presented at a previous Emerging Constituents Program Task Force meeting is the point of contact for any questions regarding the panel's work.

Dr. Mehinto also provided an update on the SAR Watershed CEC/Bioassay Study Status Report. Samples were taken at 25 sites across the watershed between the wet and dry seasons. The samples were tested and analyzed. The most prevalent EC data concerned levels of PFAS and PFOA in the samples, alongside pharmaceuticals. The results and data will be shared with SAWPA once the analysis is closer to being complete and Dr. Mehinto offered to provide a more formal presentation of the work analysis.

Overview of Regional Board PFAS Source Investigations – Regional Board

Eric Lindberg, of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, introduced Maile Gee, whom gave a status update on the work being conducted in the region regarding PFAS and microplastics. 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

Maile Gee, of the RWQCB, provided an update on the status of some of the source investigations throughout our region. Staff are expecting a work plan around the John Wayne Airport site, with potential monitoring data as well. The Regional Board staff are following up on 67 orders, and going to providing an update to the State Water Board on May 5 on the source investigations being conducted.

Regulatory Report and Updates – KSC

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

a. PFAS and ECs Updates

Ms. Dunham reported on the various key actions taken recently regarding PFOA and PFOS. Since the last Task Force meeting, OEHHA released draft potential Public Health Goals for PFOA and PFOS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued draft Maximum Contaminant Levels in March 2023 and is still addressing comments on the proposed designation of PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances. Since the EPA has published the draft Maximum Contaminant levels, there is an upcoming Public Hearing on May 4, 2023 with the comment deadline being May 30, 2023. The EPA aims to have MCLs publication finalized by the end of 2023. In the 2023 California Legislative season, there are 11 bills proposed that deal with PFAS/PFOA; a few of the bills are aiming at civil liability provisions for the manufacturing or sale/distribution of certain products that contain PFAS after a specified date. Another bill (AB 1567) is proposing a resources bond that includes \$70 Million for technical and financial assistance via the State Water Board for drinking water systems to address PFAS.

b. Any New Statewide Investigation Orders

No discussion.

EC Program Task Force Public Outreach Support - JPW Communications

Ian Achimore, of SAWPA, provided the planned Your SoCal Tap Water blog content and related social media efforts for FYE 2024 and 2025. JPW Communications was present at the meeting to address any questions about the efforts that are planned. The consultant met with Ian Achimore and the Emerging Constituents Public Outreach workgroup to refresh the scope of work and budget for the Public Outreach work. The consultant, SAWPA and the workgroup added new ideas, such as varying the types of media posted and utilizing NextDoor, a neighborhood based social media website that connects residents that live in the same neighborhoods.

SAWPA TF Administration and Future Survey - SAWPA

Ian Achimore provided a brief explanation for a survey that was prepared 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. Please participate in the survey by filling in your responses by May 8, 2023.

Schedule Future Meeting

The next Emerging Constituents Program Task Force is scheduled for Monday, July 24th, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.