

MEETING NOTES

Basin Monitoring Program Task Force September 25, 2023

STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT:

City of Corona, Melissa Estrada*
City of Rialto, Thomas Crowley*
City of Riverside, Drew Faherty*
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, Bonita Fan*
Inland Empire Utilities Agency, John Russ*

Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Pietro Cambiaso*
Jurupa Community Services District, Bryan Smith*
Orange County Water District, Kevin O'Toole*
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Greg Woodside*
WMWD/WRCRWA, Anthony Budicin*
WMWD/WRCRWA, Jennifer McMullin*
WMWD/WRCRWA, Mallory O'Connor*
YVWD, Ashley Gibson*
YVWD, Jennifer Ares*

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dudek, Steve Stuart*
East Valley Water District, Rocky Welborn*
Kahn, Soares, & Conway (KSC), 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, Rachel Gray*

Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Rick Whetsel*
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Barbara Barry*
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Cindy Li*
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Eric Lindberg*
WSC, Michael Cruikshank*
West Yost, Samantha Adams*
West Yost, Sodavy Ou*

*Participated via conference call

STAKEHOLDERS ABSENT:

Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
Chino Basin Watermaster
City of Banning
City of Beaumont
City of Redlands

Irvine Ranch Water District
SBMWD/RIX JPA
San Geronio Pass Water Agency
Temescal Valley Water District

Call to Order/Introductions

The Basin Monitoring Program Task Force (Task Force) meeting commenced at 9:31 a.m. in a virtual Zoom Meeting. Brief introductions were made.

Approval of August 30, 2023 Meeting Notes

The August 30, 2023 meeting notes were approved as posted, with a minor clarification regarding the Colton Groundwater Management Zone and its potential data gaps being the only special case discussed for the Potential Data Gaps draft responsible agencies table.

2021 Ambient WQ Pilot Comments Received and Next Steps – Sam Adams (West Yost)

Samantha Adams, of West Yost, provided a PowerPoint presentation titled *2021 AWQ Pilot Study – Comments on Draft Report*. Ms. Adams reviewed comments on the draft AWQ Pilot Study report received from Tess Dunham, Orange County Water District, Chino Basin Watermaster, and SAWPA staff and explained the rationale and responses to those comments. There will be a formal document that lists both the comments and the way those comments were addressed. Next steps include finalizing the 2021 Ambient Water Quality Pilot Study report, compile an electronic database of TDS and Nitrogen data and AWQ statistics. The report is set to be packaged and delivered to SAWPA staff by September 27 for their final submission to the Regional Water Quality Control Board prior to the October 1, 2023 deadline.

- [2021 AWQ Pilot Study Report](#)
- [Appendix A: Task Force Workshop Presentations](#)
- [Appendix C: QAQC Charts - TDS & Nitrate Time-Series for all Wells in the 11 GMZs Assessed in the 2021 Ambient Water Quality Pilot Study](#)

- [Appendix E: Time-Series of TDS & Nitrate Ambient Water Quality Statistics and Mann-Kendall Trends at all Wells by GMZ](#)
- [Appendix F: Exhibits for the Simplified Method to Assess Assimilative Capacity for TDS](#)
- [Appendix G: Exhibits for the Simplified Method to Assess Assimilative Capacity for Nitrate](#)
- [Appendix H: 2021 Contour Maps of Groundwater Elevations & TDS and Nitrate Concentration](#)

[PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Overview of Potential Data Gap Technical Memorandum – Sam Adams (West Yost)

Sodavy Ou, of West Yost, provided a PowerPoint presentation titled *Data Gap Framework – Overview of Report* to provide an overview of the work to date, the Data Gap Framework report and next steps. On September 22, 2023, the Data Gap Framework Report was sent out to the Task Force for review and comment. Ms. Ou provided a brief overview of each section of the report. All comments and feedback should be sent to Samantha Adams (sadams@westyost.org) and Ian Achimore (iachimore@sawpa.org) before **end of day on Friday, October 13, 2023**. A Word document version of the report was sent out to the Task Force for ease of providing comments to West Yost and SAWPA.

After receiving comments, West Yost will review and address comments by October 23, with a final report anticipated to be delivered to SAWPA by October 30 for submission by SAWPA to the Regional Water Quality Control Board by October 31.

- [Draft 2023 Data Gap Framework Report \(pdf\)](#)
- [Draft 2023 Data Gap Framework Appendices](#)
 - [Combined Data Gap Maps](#)
 - [Draft 2023 Data Gap Framework \(Word Document\)](#)
 - [Table 3-1](#)

[PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Overview of Declaration of Conformance – Tess Dunham (KSC)

Tess Dunham, of KSC, provided an overview of the draft Declaration of Conformance demonstrating compliance of the Task Force's salt and nutrient management plan with the 2019 Recycled Water Policy. The final Declaration is due before April 8, 2024 to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Ms. Dunham provided a Word version of the Declaration that described many aspects of the Task Force's monitoring and implementation work, as well as items included in the latest Basin Plan Amendment that was approved in December 2021 by the RWQCB and subsequently by the Office of administrative Law and the State, that reflects the updates and requirements fulfilled by the Task Force agencies and stakeholders.

- [Draft Declaration of Conformance with 2019 Recycled Water Policy \(Word document\)](#)
- [Attachment for Dec of Conformance](#)

Discussion of SCCWRP Study “Assessing the Influence of Salinization on Aquatic Life in Santa Ana Region Wadeable Streams” – Rachel Gray (SAWPA) / Tess Dunham (KSC)

Ms. Dunham provided a verbal report on the recent draft report titled *Assessing the Influence of Salinization on Aquatic Life in Santa Ana Region Wadeable Streams* shared by Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP). At the previous Task Force meeting, an initial letter response was presented by SAWPA that addressed many technical and process comments and questions regarding the study and the findings presented by the study. With the immediacy of a review deadline of September 14, 2023 the Task Force has not had a chance to send a comment letter or response to SCCWRP due to the time constraints.

[Draft SCCWRP Study](#)

2022 Annual Report of Santa Ana River Water Quality – Rick Whetsel (SAWPA)

Rick Whetsel, of SAWPA, provided an update on the draft 2022 Annual Report of Santa Ana River Water Quality. Some comments were received and are being addressed. After a final review, by Tess Dunham, it will be finalized and submitted to the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

[Draft 2022 Annual Report of Santa Ana River Water Quality](#)

Surface Water Monitoring Kick Off with CWE – Ian Achimore

Ian Achimore, of SAWPA, provided a PowerPoint presentation titled *Basin Monitoring Program Task Force Surface Monitoring Update*. The surface water monitoring program informs various deliverables fulfilled by the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force on behalf of the Task Force stakeholder agencies: the Ambient Water Quality Update (performed every 5 years), Annual Report of Santa Ana River Water Quality (performed every year) and the Wasteload Allocation Model (performed every 10 years). Mr. Achimore reviewed CWE's tasks and budget, and their scope of work that includes:

- Assisting SAWPA with executing access agreements with property owners, and/or related parties, when necessary,
- Ensuring proper workflow for field sampling, lab testing, and reporting is established in advance of monitoring,
- Identifying and contracting with a lab and other potential subcontractors,
- Developing a quality assurance project plan (QAPP) for the monitoring associated with the scope,
- Conducting quarterly monitoring at various sites along the Santa Ana River and documenting results by implementing the QAPP, and,
- Uploading the data collected to a State-certified database.

Mr. Achimore reviewed the various factors that led the Task Force to securing CWE's services to provide monitoring. The quarterly monitoring plan will occur at three sites (SAR at E Street, SAR at Riverside Ave, and SAR at Mission) for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), Electrical Conductivity (Specific Conductance), Ammonia, Nitrite, Nitrate, and Total Inorganic Nitrogen (TIN). Tess Dunham, of KSC, and Samantha Adams, of West Yost, added that the timing of the sampling for:

- Reach 3 sampling should be when base flow conditions are met per the definition in the latest Basin Plan amendment language,
- Reflecting the "annual average" definition in the latest Basin Plan amendment language, Reach 4 and 5 sampling should occur anytime within the quarterly time frame and to document the river conditions at the time when the sampling occurs, while taking into account safety from stormflow. And Ian should work with CWE to see what their professional recommendation is to reflect the "annual average."

Next steps include preparing for the quarterly monitoring that will occur in 2024, such as obtaining access and determining timing of the sampling.

[PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Update on "Special Study" Scoping Process – Ian Achimore

Mr. Achimore provided a PowerPoint presentation titled *Update on "Special Study" Scoping Process*. Mr. Achimore reviewed the October 2022 groundwater monitoring program work plan for study concepts that the overall "Special Study" would answer, such as:

- What is the quality of the Streambed Infiltration along Reach 5?
- Where does rising groundwater occur along Reaches 3 and 4?

- Where is surface water infiltrating to groundwater along Reaches 3 and 4?
- What proportions of different types of water (e.g., POTW discharge, rising groundwater) exist at the various compliance points along Reaches 3 and 4?
- What are the TDS and TIN concentrations of rising groundwater where it occurs?
- What are the TDS and TIN concentrations of streambed infiltration where it occurs?

Next steps for this effort include scheduling a BMP Scoping Committee meeting, developing a draft scope for a Request for Proposals (RFP), and then releasing the RFP once finalized with the Task Force.

[PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Schedule Future Meeting

The next Basin Monitoring Program Task Force meeting was scheduled for **Monday, October 30, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** via virtual Zoom meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.