Emerging Constituents Program Task Force

October 24, 2023

ATTENDEES:

Babcock Laboratories, Allison Mackenzie*
Chino Basin Watermaster, Justin Nakano*
City of Beaumont, Kevin Lee*
City of Beaumont, Thaxton Van Belle*
City of Corona, Melissa Estrada*
City of Rialto, Thomas Crowley*
City of Riverside, Bobby Gustafson*
City of Riverside, Nicole Greenwood*
EMWD, Al Javier*
EMWD, Doug Edwards*
EVMWD, Sudhir Mohleji*
IEUA, Sushmitha Reddy*
Kahn, Soares, & Conway, LLP, Theresa (Tess) Dunham*
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Ai Jia*
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Carrie Guo*
OC San, Matt Smith*
OC San, Lazaro Eleuterio*
OCWD, Patrick Versluis*
Riverside Public Utilities, Alex Kim*
RWQCB, Cindy Li*
RWQCB, Maile Gee*
RWQCB, Pamela Ybarra*
SAWPA, Bruce Whitaker*
SAWPA, Gil Botello*
SAWPA, T. Milford Harrison*
SAWPA, Rachel Gray*
SAWPA, Ian Achimore*
SAWPA, Melissa Bustamonte*
SAWPA, Rick Whetsel*
SAWPA, Haley Gohari*
SBVMWD, Greg Woodside*
SCCWRP, Dr. Alvina Mehinto*
SWRCB DDW, Faraz Asad*
SWRCB DDW, Scott Miller*
WMWD, Jennifer McMullin*
YVWD, Ashley Gibson*
Yorba Linda WD, Rosanne Weston*
Ana N*

*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 July 24, 2023 Meeting Notes

Meeting notes were approved as posted.

SCCWRP Santa Ana River Watershed Bioassay Draft Study Presentation – Dr. Alvina Mehinto, SCCWRP

Dr. Alvina Mehinto, of the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP), provided a presentation titled *Cell Assay Bioscreening in the Santa Ana Region* regarding a study conducted for the past 3 years in the Santa Ana Region. In 2012, the Expert Panel convened by the State of California suggested the use of methods, other than chemical, to supplement the current processes to develop recommendations. Cell bioassays are a tool that can be utilized to quantify and measure different chemicals and their impacts on biological systems. Cell bioassays were adapted to evaluate water quality through three steps: (1) endpoint selection, (2) standardized protocols, and (3) intercalibration studies. Endpoints are receptors on cells that can be used to evaluate the potential effects a known or unknown chemical can have on their processes. Three endpoints were selected for the study: Estrogen receptor alpha (ERα), Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor (AhR) and Glucocortioid receptor (GR).

The study's rationale of using cell bioassays was that it helped prioritize sites that require further testing and time-consuming analyses. Pilot testing is needed to assess their efficacy as part of monitoring programs; this study is going to be used to provide insight as to where and the type of monitoring that could be occurring in the Santa Ana Region.

SCCWRP's study focused on 26 sites, selected in collaboration with the Regional Water Quality Control Board, with feedback also solicited from this Task Force. Grab water samples were collected during the dry and wet seasons (no storm events were targeted). The two main tasks of the study were to perform the cell bioassay screenings and conduct targeted chemical analyses on a subset of the samples which occurred

during the wet season. The targeted analyses focused on measuring the presence and concentrations of hormones, industrial chemicals, pharmaceuticals, pesticides, and herbicides.

Overall, the study showed that most sites did not have any Erα or GR responses. AhR responses were detected at around a dozen sites, although most were relatively low. No seasonal patterns were observed (presence during dry weather versus wet weather). Next steps for this investigative study include responding to comments received on the draft report, and then finalizing the report for the Regional Water Quality Control Board. There are no anticipated regulatory effects based on the findings of this report at this time. Once the report is finalized SCCWRP will share the study with the Emerging Constituents Task Force.

PowerPoint Presentation

Regulatory Report and Updates – Tess Dunham, KSC

The Task Force's regulatory advisor, Tess Dunham of KSC, provided a PowerPoint presentation titled *Emerging Constituents Task Force Meeting* containing updates on PFAS and microplastics.

PowerPoint Presentation

a. DPR Monitoring Pesticides in Wastewater Influent and Effluent Study

Mrs. Dunham reported on recent activity surrounding pesticides, specifically pyrethroids. The Central Valley Water Board issued a draft pyrethroid research plan in July 2023, which could help identify various areas for additional studies related to pyrethroid presence in the environment.

Ms. Dunham also reported that the Department of Pesticide Regulation is conducting a monitoring regarding pesticides in wastewater influent and effluent at 30 wastewater treatment plants across California.

b. Microplastics Updates

No updates or discussion.

c. PFAS and ECs Updates

Mrs. Dunham reviewed new regulatory updates from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on PFAS/PFOA. A Final PFAS Reporting Rule was finalized recently that will require comprehensive reporting of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) manufactured and imported in the United States under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). They have also proposed a rule banning Trichloroethylene (TCE). There have been no updates on the proposed maximum contaminant levels for PFAS.

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has produced a second draft technical support document for public heath goals (PHGs) for PFOA & PFOS. They recently extended the comment period for the second draft to August 29, 2023. Thank you to the Task Force members that submitted comments to OEHHA on the PHG recommendations.

The State Water Board recently issued target reporting limits, using the EPA method 1633, for aqueous PFAS constituent samples.

The last update provided by Mrs. Dunham surrounded a PFAS Class Action Settlement for public waters systems drinking water (3M, DuPont). The timelines for objections and exclusion from the Class Action Settlements are very short and require response to them soon (in November 2023 and December 2023).

d. Any New Statewide Investigation Orders

No updates or discussion.

General Update on PFAS and Microplastics – Maile Gee, Regional Board
Maile Gee, of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, provided the verbal reports below.

a. Update on ITRC Microplastics Toolkit Workgroup
Ms. Gee reported that the Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) drafted a microplastics outreach toolkit. The ITRC is an interagency council that provides training and guidance documents for state and local government organizations. The general public comment period for the microplastics outreach toolkit should be opening soon. If interested, or wanting more information, please contact Ian Achimore, of SAWPA, or Ms. Gee.

b. PFAS State Water Board Website
Ms. Gee also shared the Santa Ana RWQCB's website on PFAS. The site contains information regarding RWQCB contacts that work on PFAS, general information on PFAS for the public, PFAS Investigations/Orders and information from OEHHA.

EC Program Task Force Public Outreach Support Update – Melissa Bustamonte, SAWPA
Melissa Bustamonte, SAWPA's Communications Specialist, provided an update on the effort overseen by the Task Force's public relations consultant, JPW Communications. Collaboration efforts are in progress between SAWPA, JPW Communications and the EC PR Workgroup for the next 2 years (through June 30, 2025). JPW Communications is currently working on video content for the various Your SoCal Tap Water social media accounts. Once production is finished with the video, the video will be shared with the Emerging Constituents Task Force.

Schedule Future Meeting
The next Emerging Constituents Program Task Force is scheduled for Monday, January 22nd, 2024 at 2:30 p.m.

Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.