

MEETING NOTES

Basin Monitoring Program Task Force October 30, 2023

STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT:

Chino Basin Water Master, Justin Nakano
City of Riverside, Drew Faherty*
Eastern Municipal WD, Doug Edwards
Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Lenai Hunter*
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
SBMWD/RIX/JPA, Jennifer Shepardson
WMWD/WRCRWA, Mallory O'Connor
YVWD, Ashley Gibson

OTHERS PRESENT:

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, Haley Gohari
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Cindy Li*
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Eric Lindberg
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Jayne Joy
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Keith Person
WSC, Michael Cruikshank
West Yost, Sodavy Ou

*Participated via conference call

STAKEHOLDERS ABSENT:

Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
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 9:06 a.m. in a virtual Zoom and in-person meeting.

Approval of September 25, 2023 Meeting Notes

The September 25, 2023 meeting notes were approved as posted.

Special Meeting for SCCWRP* Study "Assessing the Influence of Salinization on Aquatic Life in Santa Ana Region Wadeable Streams" – Rachel Gray (SAWPA) / Tess Dunham (KSC)

Tess Dunham, of Kahn, Soares, and Conway, LLP (KSC), provided an update on the manuscript presented by Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) that was discussed at the previous Task Force meeting. A special November 13th Task Force meeting has been scheduled for SCCWRP to present a technical review of their methodology and analyses to the Task Force. The meeting will allow Task Force members to provide comments on the manuscript verbally. Ms. Dunham has engaged John Rudolph of the consulting firm WSP to assist the Task Force in reviewing the manuscript and providing comments to SCCWRP.

Declaration of Conformance and Basin Plan Amendment Update Next Steps – Tess Dunham

Mrs. Dunham provided a verbal update on the draft Declaration of Conformance and 2024 Basin Plan Amendment documents. Comments were due to Tess Dunham and Ian Achimore on October 9, 2023, the Task Force was urged to get any additional comments to Ms. Dunham as soon as possible. Once the comments are compiled and addressed a revised set of the Declaration of Conformance and Basin Plan Amendment documents will be distributed to the Task Force for a final review.

Potential Data Gap Tech Memo Response to Comments – Sodavy Ou (West Yost)

Sodavy Ou, of West Yost, provided a PowerPoint Presentation titled *Data Gap Framework – Overview of Comments*. Comments were received from Cindy Li (Regional Water Quality Control Board), Tess Dunham (KSC), and SAWPA. Most comments surrounded editorial and minor language changes, with some clarifying questions and a few substantive comments were addressed and discussed during the presentation. Throughout the development of the Data Gap Framework document, the comments and conversations were logged and compiled for reference and clarity over time.

West Yost plans to finalize the report and provide it to SAWPA for submission, on behalf of the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force, to the Regional Water Quality Control Board tomorrow, October 31, 2023.

PowerPoint Presentation

Surface Water Monitoring Update – Ian Achimore

Ian Achimore, of SAWPA, provided a verbal update on the surface water monitoring program for the Santa Ana River by task force consultant CWE to provide data for the Task Force's *Annual Report of Santa Ana River Water Quality*. He's following up with Veva Weamer from West Yost for feedback regarding the sample timing, which can be informed by the Task Force's February 2023 *Santa Ana River Total Dissolved Solids and Total Inorganic Nitrogen Monitoring Work Plan*. Right of entry agreement for CWE to have access to the various sampling sites should be approved and finalized in the next few weeks.

Update on "Special Study" Update – Ian Achimore

Mr. Achimore provided a verbal update on the special study discussed amongst the Task Force at the last meeting. Some of the topics to be addressed by the special study are streambed infiltration, rising groundwater, and surface water infiltration occurring throughout the watershed.

Mr. Achimore will work with the Task Force's Scoping Committee to develop a scope of work for the special study. A draft scope and Request for Proposals is anticipated to be ready for review around Thanksgiving, putting the potential consultant responses on track to be due in January 2024.

Inquiry Regarding Groundwater Desalination Projects– Eric Lindberg

Eric Lindberg of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) discussed a request given to the RWQCB by the Governor's Office to identify groundwater zones that have plans for additional, or expansion of current, desalination projects. If there are any projects that fall into this category, please send the project information (groundwater zone/basins, acre feet per year) to Mr. Lindberg by November 3rd. This Governor's Office is evaluating future water bond language and funding opportunities that would be able to benefit local projects that target water quality (for drinking water and water use) and improving the groundwater basins through desalination.

Schedule Future Meeting

The next Basin Monitoring Program Task Force meeting was scheduled for **Monday, December 4, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** via virtual Zoom meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.