

Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force

June 5, 2023

PARTICIPANTS PRESENT:

Abigail Suter, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD	Pat Boldt, WRCAC
Aldo Licitra, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD	Patrick Lewis, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Alfredo Javier, EMWD	Rachael Johnson, Riverside County Farm Bureau
Barbara Barry, Regional Water Quality Control Board	Rae Beimer, City of Moreno Valley
Ben Foster, City of Lake Elsinore	Rebekah Guill, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Chris Stransky, WSP USA	Rohini Mustafa, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Carlos Norvani, City of Lake Elsinore	Richard Boon, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Cynthia Gabaldon, City of Menifee, Perris, and March JPA	Scott Sewell, CDFW
Dustin Christensen, City of Beaumont	Steven Wolosoff, GEI Consultants
Dave Woelfel, Regional Water Quality Control Board	Stormy Osifeso, City of Riverside
Garth Engelhorn, NV5	Sudhir Mohleji, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Jim Klang, WRCAC	Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP
John Rudolph, WSP USA	Bruce Whitaker, SAWPA
Kris Hanson, City of Wildomar (Interwest)	Gil Botello, SAWPA
Lynn Merrill, City of San Jacinto	T Milford Harrison, SAWPA
Mike Ali, EVMWD	Rachel Gray, SAWPA
Michael Roberts, City of Riverside	Rick Whetsel, SAWPA
Natasha Thandi, Caltrans (MBI)	

Call to Order & Introductions

The Lake Elsinore/Canyon Lake TMDL Task (Task Force) meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Rick Whetsel, with all participants participating remotely.

Approval of Meeting Notes from April 25, 2023 Task Force Meeting

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

Status: Regional Board Update (Regional Board)

Barbara Barry, Regional Board, informed the Task Force that David Woelfel's retired annuitant position will end on June 22, 2023 and he will no longer be working to support the LE&CL TMDLs. Currently, Barbara and Lauren Briggs are focusing their efforts on reviewing the various sections of the TMDL Technical Report.

The proposed Regional Board schedule for the LE&CL TMDLs moving forward is to hold a Board Workshop in December 2023 followed by an Adoption hearing in late spring 2024 or by the end of the fiscal year.

With respect to the Integrated Report response to comments, the deadline for Regional Board staff to submit comments to the State is August 2nd. Regional Board staff is currently working to address comments on Orange County and plan to comments on Lake Elsinore in late June or early July.

A question was raised by stakeholders on the status of cyanobacteria in Lake Elsinore, Barbara informed stakeholders that the lake is currently at the Caution Level. Ben Foster, City of Lake Elsinore reported that the lake has been at the Caution Level for four consecutive weeks and moving forward the City is planning bi-weekly monitoring for as long as the Caution Level persists.

Update: TMDL Update Activities (Tess Dunham, KSC and Steve Wolosoff, GEI Consultants)

Tess Dunham, KSC, informed the Task Force that the consulting team is currently reviewing comments from stakeholders on various sections of the TMDL Technical report that had been sent out for review and to the extent that there were comments on the previous version (2018 version) of the TMDL Technical Document that were not previously addressed to please resubmit them so that we can get these issues resolved before we submit the final document to Regional Board for Public Review. She then introduced Steven Wolosoff, GEI Consultants to review some of the key comments submitted by Regional Board staff, EVMWD staff and WRCAC.

As part of this discussion, Steven re-introduced a memo titled, “Supplemental lake water quality model application to evaluate potential alternative reference scenario for TMDL revision“ that was first shared with the Task Force back in March 2022 to revisit the Topic of “Enhanced Watershed Retention.”

A copy of the CDM Smith Memorandum “Supplemental lake water quality model application to evaluate potential alternative reference scenario for TMDL revision“ is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: <https://sawpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Lake-Model-Results-for-Alternative-Reference-Scenario-Memo.pdf>.

Update: Canyon Lake Alum Application (LESJWA Staff)

Rick Whetsel provided an update to the Task Force that during the recent (conducted the week of May 18th) alum application at Canyon Lake, a condition arose where a mixture of floating aluminum sulfate floc and algae occurred in one of the coves of the main lake body. This resulted in some concern by one Canyon Lake resident who took some pictures and sent them to the publisher of the Canyon Lake Friday Flyer. The publisher contacted our education and outreach consultant, Liselle DeGrave of DeGrave Communications who then forwarded it to SAWPA/LESJWA staff to investigate.

LESJWA immediately reached out to our alum application contractor, Aquatechnex, to obtain their feedback about the problem. Aquatechnex informed LESJWA staff that this is a temporary condition, similar to one that occurred with an alum application about five years ago, and is a result of a combination of warming weather and an abundance of nutrients in the water column from the numerous winter storms, resulting in a subsurface algae bloom in the cove lake water occurring at the same time as when the aluminum sulfate was being applied to the Canyon Lake main lake body. Aquatechnex shared that the alum floc will likely settle out of the water column within a few days and as an inert (harmless, non-reactive) compound. However, a benefit of the extended time that the alum remains suspended in the water column, is that there is greater opportunity for the alum to bind with any remaining phosphorus in the water column and provide for the maximum amount of phosphorus removal, which is used by algae.

Based on follow-up reports to LESJWA staff, the alum floc dissipated significantly within 12 hours of the alum application and no further issues were reported.

Task Force Administration (LESJWA Staff)

Rick Whetsel provided an update to the Task Force on the availability of LEAMS nutrient offset credits to stakeholders for 2022 and requested action as how to allocate the stakeholder funds.

The 2022 Annual Lake Elsinore Offset Report prepared by Dr. Horne to quantify TP and TN offset credits available from the operation of LEAMS to LE&CL TMDL Task Force stakeholders revealed that there were insufficient total nitrogen credits available to sell to stakeholders for 2022.

To address this shortfall of available total nitrogen credits, LESJWA staff proposed to rework the LEAMS offset credit and corresponding budget allocations to Task Force members purchasing LEAMS nutrient offset credits similar to what was done in 2020, when LEAMS also failed to produce sufficient total nitrogen credits to permit the sale of credits to Task Force members. Whereas, in 2020, the Task Force directed LESJWA staff to allocate nutrient offset credits based solely on the need for total phosphorus offset credits and to invoice stakeholders for only 2020 TP offset credits. All remaining funds were held and applied to their 2021 LEAMS budget allocation.

Following brief discussion Lynn Merrill, representing the City of San Jacinto, moved a motion; Cynthia Gabaldon, seconded the motion.

MOVED, motion for LESJWA staff to rework the nutrient offset credits based solely on the need for total phosphorus offset credits and to invoice stakeholders for only 2022 TP offset credits. All remaining funds are to be applied to stakeholders 2023 LEAMS budget allocation.

Other Business

No Other Business was discussed.

Schedule Next Meeting

The next LE/CL TMDL Task Force meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 7, 2023, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Table Summary of Agreements and Actions

Date of Action/Agreement	Action/Agreement	Responsible Entities Reaching Agreement
September 28, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve funding in the amount of up to \$30,000 to CDM Smith to assist Task Force technical issues, including but not limited to, initial discussions regarding content and scope of TMDL Implementation Plan revisions should the Task Force decide to provide resources for further revising the 2018 draft TMDL. 	Voting Task Force members.
November 3, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve moving forward with the proposed step-wise approach to updating the TMDL Technical Report and its timeline. 	Voting Task Force members
January 10, 2022	-	-
March 2, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Task Force agreed to submit a comment letter to the Draft Staff Working Proposal for MS4 Permit by March 18, 2022. Regional Board confirmed that they would accept the comments past their soft deadline of March 10. Approved the alum application to the Canyon Lake if the February monitoring data exceeds 0.09. 	Voting Task Force members
April 20, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved execution of the Key Principles for Technical TMDL Revision by Mark, Norton Task Force Administrator on behalf of the voting members of the task force subject to revisions discussed at the 4/20/2022 task force meeting. Approved submittal of the Task Force Comment letter to Regional Board on the Staff Working Proposal for the MS4 Permit upon revision discussed at the 4/20/2022 task force meeting. Regional Board abstained from action and conversation of this matter. Approved amendment #3 to extend the LE/CL TMDL Task Force Agreement for a period of three years to June 30, 2025, with the option that the Agreement, while still in full force and effect, may be extended an additional two years, to June 30, 2027, by means of Administrative Action by the Task Force Administrator 	Voting Task Force members; Excludes Regional Board in relation to the Comment Letter to Regional Board on the Staff Working Proposal for the MS4 Permit.
June 27, 2022	-	-
August 17, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved execution of the Key Principles for Technical TMDL Revision by Mark Norton, Task Force Administrator on behalf of the voting members of the LE&CL TMDL Task Force. Approved a proposal by CDM Smith and a recommendation to the LESJWA Board to authorize a Task Order to update and revise the technical document and additional TMDL technical support services. 	Mark Norton, Task Force Administrator on behalf of the voting members of the LE&CL TMDL Task Force
September 27, 2022	-	-
November 14, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfer the remaining balance of the contract work supported by Steven Wolosoff as of December 31, 2022 from CDM Smith and enter into an agreement with GEI Consultants to complete work starting on January 1 2023. Exercise an option for a two year extension with WSP USA to oversee and implement TMDL Compliance Monitoring. Program. 	Voting Task Force members
January 10, 2023	-	-
February 15, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Task Force moved to provide LESJWA staff in coordination with the Task Force consulting team the authority to make a determination on the need for a Spring 2023 alum application based upon review of the February 2023 Canyon Lake monitoring results to be provided by WSP USA. 	Voting Task Force members.
March 28, 2023	-	-
April 25, 2023	-	-

June 5, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Task Force approved LESJWA staff to rework the nutrient offset credits based solely on the need for total phosphorus offset credits and to invoice stakeholders for only 2022 TP offset credits. All remaining funds are to be applied to stakeholders 2023 LEAMS budget allocation.	
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