

MEETING NOTES

Joint Regional Water Quality Monitoring/Middle Santa Ana River TMDL Task Force

November 20, 2023

PARTICIPANTS

Abigail Gomez, City of Jurupa Valley
Amanda Grey, UCR
Barbara Barry, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Becky Dunavant, CDM Smith
Ben Foster, City of Lake Elsinore
Bernadette Kolb, CDM Smith
Bobby Gustafso, City of Riverside RWQCP
Chris Bland, County of San Bernardino
Cordell Chavez, City of Corona
Cynthia Gabaldon, County of San Bernardino
Emily Condon, CDM Smith
Julie Carver, City of Pomona
Kimberly Colbert, Colbert Environmental Group
Kris Hanson, City of Eastvale
Michael Mori, County of Orange
Mike Roberts, City of Riverside
Nicole Greenwood, City of Riverside
Nisha Wells, City of Chino Hills

Pat Boldt, Milk Producers Council
Patrick Lewis, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Richard Boon, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Rebekah Guill, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Richard Meyerhoff, GEI Consultants
Rohini Mustafa, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Rovi Porter, CDM Smith
Ryan Kearns, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Steven Wolosoff, CDM Smith
Sudhir Mohleji, EVMWD
SueAnn Neal, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Terri Reeder, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP
T. Milford Harrison, SAWPA
Bruce Whitaker, SAWPA
Gil Botello, SAWPA
Rick Whetsel, SAWPA

1. Call to Order & Introductions

The MSAR TMDL Task Force Meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. by Rick Whetsel at SAWPA with all participants participating remotely.

2. Approval of Meeting Notes from the June 26, 2023 MSAR Task Force Meeting

The June 26, 2023 meeting notes were approved as posted.

Regional Water Quality Monitoring Meeting Items:

1. Update: 2023-24 Santa Ana River Regional Bacteria Monitoring (Rebecca Dunavant/CDM Smith)

Becky Dunavant, CDM Smith provided a brief update on the status of the 2023-24 Santa Ana River Regional Bacteria Monitoring.

She informed the Task Force that the “warm, dry weather” monitoring conducted between May and September has been completed, this included 20 continuous weeks of monitoring for Priority 1 and 2 waters, 5 continuous weeks of monitoring for Priority 3 waters and a single sample for Priority 4 waters. CDM Smith will soon be wrapping up the “cool, dry weather” monitoring conducted between October and November, which includes an additional 5 continuous weeks of monitoring for Priority 1 and 2 waters.

She also informed the Task Force that all of the “warm, dry weather” monitoring results have been uploaded to the Water Quality Reporting dashboard and are available for review.

The link to the dashboard, available on the SAWPA web page is: <https://sawpa.cdmsmith.com/>.

Using the dashboard, she then presented the latest 2024 “warm, dry weather” monitoring results, focusing on the Lake Elsinore-Elm Grove Beach and Lytle Creek, Priority 1 sites, which had previously showed increasing trends (2022-23), but in the current year are showing much improved numbers.

Next steps include the monitoring of a single storm event (as a requirement of the MSAR TMDLs) between now and March.

2. RWQM Task Force Administration (SAWPA Staff)

Rick Whetsel presented the draft FY 2024-25 RWQM Task Force budget that was shared with Task Force stakeholders by email on October 26th for consideration of approval at the November 20th Task Force meeting.

This draft FY 2024-25 budget included the following :

- SAWPA Administration remains at \$30,000 the same as FY 2023-24.
- As the Task Force has directed SAWPA to issue a request for proposals for the selection of a consulting firm to oversee and implement the FY 2024 25 Santa Ana Regional bacteria monitoring program, costs to implement the monitoring program are currently unknown. Staff is recommending a conservatively high budget estimate of \$400,000, which can be revised (lowered) prior to sending out Task Force invoices next July.
- No Regulatory Compliance Experts costs were included in the budget, it is anticipated that Tess Dunham will be available to the RWQM Task Force on questions relating to the SAR Regional Bacteria Monitoring Program through her existing agreement with the Middle Santa Ana River TMDL Task Force.

A motion was put forward by Rohini Mustafa representing RCFC&WCD and seconded by Christopher Bland representing SBCFCD to approve the October 26th Draft FY 2024-25 RWQM Task Force Budget as presented to the Task Force.

MOVED to approve the October 26th draft FY 2024-25 RWQM Task Force budget.

Invoices for FY 2024-25 will be issued in July 2024.

MSAR TMDL Meeting Items:

1. Update: Limited MSAR Basin Plan Amendment (Tess Dunham /KSC and Richard Meyerhoff & Steven Wolosoff/GEI)

Tess Dunham introduced Richard Meyerhoff to provide an update on the limited Basin Plan amendment. Richard presented several slides to update the Task Force on the status of the draft technical report and next steps.

He informed the Task force that draft technical report submitted to Task Force for review in late July included following proposed revisions to the TMDLs:

- Extend Wet Winter Condition compliance date 20 years – from December 31, 2025 to December 31, 2045
- Clarify applicability of Basin Plan High Flow Suspension (HFS) provision to MSAR TMDLs
- Incorporate Phase 2 Implementation Plan to replace the completed Phase 1 Implementation Plan (existing TMDL implementation plan)
- Clarify applicability of REC1 use to Cucamonga Creek

A key issue raised by Regional Board staff in review of this draft technical report is the need for a more detailed justification for the proposed 20-year extended Wet Winter Condition compliance schedule. The consultant team has met with Regional Board staff and is working to revise the language regarding the justification for 20-year timeline and to submit to Regional Board staff for review.

It is anticipated that a Revised Technical Report will be submitted to MSAR Task Force for review in December.

Following approval of the proposed revisions by the Task Force, the consultant team will proceed to work to support Regional Board staff on the preparation of Basin Plan amendment language with a 2024 target date (possibly summer) for an adoption hearing by the Regional Board.

2. Status Update: Bacteria Reduction Implementation Activities

a) RCFC&WCD

Rohini Mustafa reported to the Task Force that the District and City of Riverside are in the conceptual design phase of their investigation of the Magnolia Center Storm Drain, which historically has experienced high bacteria counts in its dry weather flows.

The project is intended to help improve water quality by diverting the Magnolia Center Storm Drain to the City's Regional Water Quality Control Plant.

b) SBCFCD

Chris Bland informed the Task Force that the County has completed their 10-week monitoring studies for Cucamonga Creek and Chris Basin in September. Staff is currently reviewing the results and will submit these results with the next annual report.

c) Orange County

No update.

d) City of Claremont

Kimberly Colbert, representing the City of Claremont informed the Task Force that the City of Claremont has submitted its 2022-23 Annual Report to the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board.

e) City of Pomona

Julie Carver, representing the City of Pomona informed the Task Force that the City of Pomona has also submitted its 2022-23 Annual Report to the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board.

f) Agricultural Operators

No update.

3. TMDL Task Force Administration (SAWPA Staff)

Rick Whetsel presented the draft FY 2024-25 MSAR TMDL Task Force budget that was shared with Task Force stakeholders by email on October 26th for consideration of approval at the November 20th Task Force meeting.

This draft FY 2024-25 budget included the following:

- FY 2024-25 TMDL Administration costs remain at \$37,500, based upon expected bi-monthly as we work to finalize the revisions to the TMDLs.
- FY 2024-25 TMDL Compliance Expert costs are estimated at \$73,000.
- FY 2024-25 SAR Regional Bacteria Monitoring program costs are estimated at \$129,000 based previous year budgets. Please note the RWQM Task Force is to issue a request for proposals in November for the selection of a consulting firm to oversee and implement the FY 2024 25 Santa Ana Regional bacteria monitoring program, so the exact costs to implement the monitoring program are currently unknown.
- For FY 2024-25 it is assumed that any projects or studies conducted to support the update of the MSAR TMDLs will be funded using the Task Force Reserve estimated at \$198,012.

A motion was put forward by Pat Boldt representing Chino Basin Watermaster Agricultural Pool / Milk Producers Council and seconded by Mike Roberts representing the City of Riverside to approve the October 26th Draft FY 2024-25 MSAR TMDL Task Force Budget as presented to the Task Force.

MOVED to approve the October 26th draft FY 2024-25 MSAR TMDL Task Force budget.

Invoices for FY 2024-25 will be issued in July.

4. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

5. Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting is proposed as a Joint RWQM /MSAR TMDL Task Force meeting and is scheduled for Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 9:30 p.m.

6. Adjourn

There being no further business for review, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.