

MEETING NOTES

Basin Monitoring Program Task Force January 29, 2024

STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT:

Chino Basin Water Master, Justin Nakano*
City of Beaumont, Kevin Lee*
City of Corona, Melissa Estrada*
City of Riverside, Nicole Greenwood*
Eastern Municipal WD, Doug Edwards*
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, Lisa Haney*
Orange County Water District, Kevin O'Toole*
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Greg Woodside*
SBMWD/RIX/JPA, Jennifer Shepardson*
WMWD/WRCRWA, Jennifer McMullin*
WMWD/WRCRWA, Mallory O'Connor*
YVWD, Ashley Gibson*
YVWD, John Wrobel*

OTHERS PRESENT:

CWE, Nan Jia*
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 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, Jagroop Khela*
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Keith Person*
West Yost, Samantha Adams*

*Participated via conference call

STAKEHOLDERS ABSENT:

Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
City of Banning
City of Redlands
City of Rialto

Irvine Ranch Water District
San Geronio Pass Water Agency
Temescal Valley Water District

Call to Order/Introductions

The Basin Monitoring Program Task Force (Task Force) meeting commenced at 9:01 a.m. in a virtual Zoom and in-person meeting.

Approval of December 4, 2023 Meeting Notes

The December 4, 2023 meeting notes were approved as posted.

Basin Monitoring Task Force Long Term Deliverables Overview – Ian Achimore, SAWPA

Ian Achimore, of SAWPA, provided an update on the Long Term Deliverables handout that shows Task Force deliverables that are due from now through Fiscal Year 2028-29. In 2023, the Task Force completed procuring a consultant to support the Santa Ana River Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), completed initial set up of water quality monitoring program, completed the Potential Data Gaps report and completed the 2021 Pilot Study. Santa Ana River monitoring has begun and will take place quarterly. The Special Study (Reach 3 TDS and rising groundwater issues) procurement and implementation being delayed and moved to start later in 2024 than originally planned to allow more time for the Scoping Committee to develop a thorough scope of work. The Chapter 4 and 5 Basin Plan Amendments and Environmental Documentation have also been delayed, with an estimated timeline of having a document to present to the Regional Board in late summer, early fall 2024. Scoping meetings on Groundwater Well Tools and associated Database has also been delayed to begin in the second quarter of 2024.

Declaration of Conformance – Tess Dunham, KSC

Tess Dunham, of Kahn, Soares, and Conway, LLP (KSC), provided a verbal report on the draft Declaration of Conformance. The draft Declaration of Conformance has been drafted and circulated for comment through the Task Force. A final version of the document has been sent over to the Regional Water Quality Control Board to review and prepare it for presentation to the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board at their March

2024 board meeting. Legal review and RWQCB staff are hopeful to have the declaration of conformance ready for Public Comment and review and posting 45 days before the March meeting.

Proposed Final 2024 State Water Board Integrated Report – Tess Dunham, KSC

Ms. Dunham provided a verbal update on the status of the next cycle of the Integrated Report. Revisions on the 2024 Integrated Report were posted and the RWQCB worked diligently with the State Water Board to provide revisions and support to avoid listing Chino Creek 1B in this cycle, especially with the upcoming Basin Plan Amendment commitments. There is one error pending correction in the final staff report that seems to still indicate the listing of Chino Creek 1B; however Ms. Dunham is working to rectify and get that addressed before it's finalized. Chino Creek 1B has been listed under Category 3 (insufficient data) and will be discussed amongst Inland Empire Utilities Agency and Chino Basin Watermaster to ensure sufficient data and monitoring occurs in the future.

The hearing on the 2024 Integrated Report will be hosted by the State Water Board on Tuesday, February 6, 2024. Ms. Dunham will be attending that meeting on behalf of the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force in order to provide the last comment on the pending correction and to thank the State Water Board for the revisions made to the report. The next cycle of the Integrated Report for the Santa Ana Region will occur in 2030.

Triennial Review of Basin Plan – Tess Dunham, KSC

Ms. Dunham provided a verbal report on the Triennial Review of the Basin Plan. The Triennial Review is a standard process that all regions are required to conduct under the Clean Water Act. All of the Regional Boards have the chance to evaluate their current water quality standards, any programs and identify any areas of priority and focus for the region. Greg Woodside, of San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, requested that a comment letter, if sent during the review period, supports and prioritizes the current Basin Plan Amendment work being conducted by Task Force.

On Wednesday, January 31, 2024 the Regional Water Quality Control Board will be conducting the scoping meeting and public hearing for the Triennial Review at SAWPA's office in the morning. The draft priority list that will be reviewed at the scoping meeting will be distributed to the Task Force after the meeting. The plan would set up adoption of the Triennial Review in July 2024. Eric Lindberg, of the RWQCB, encouraged attendance and participation in the scoping meeting

SCCWRP Comment Letter Overview – Tess Dunham, KSC

Ms. Dunham provided a verbal report on the comment letter sent on behalf of the Task Force in response to SCCWRP's recent draft manuscript titled *Assessing the Influence of Salinization on Aquatic Life in Santa Ana Region Wadeable Streams*. A technical memorandum was prepared by John Rudolph, of WSP, and will be accompanied by a cover letter written by Ms. Dunham on behalf of the Task Force. Ms. Dunham reviewed the key points of the technical memorandum and analysis provided by WSP on the study for the Task Force. The cover letter and technical memorandum will be distributed to the Task Force stakeholders for review and comment after the meeting. Once reviewed, please share any feedback or comments with Tess Dunham as soon as possible before the finalized letter is sent over to SCCWRP within the following week.

Update on Santa Ana River QAPP and Sampling – Ian Achimore, SAWPA

Mr. Achimore provided a PowerPoint presentation titled *Update on the Santa Ana River QAPP and Sampling*. The draft version of the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) was sent out to the Task Force via email for review and comment. Comments were received and addressed by SAWPA and CWE; the final version of the QAPP was sent out to the Task Force on January 2, 2024. A few comments received after January 2 were reviewed and provided on the PowerPoint presentation slides. In addressing the safety comment of the quarterly sampling, it was discovered that the scope of work and budget provided by CWE did not have any additional funds to prepare for events of re-sampling and any QA/QC issues. In February 2024, SAWPA staff will adjust the CWE Task Order budget to reflect contingency funding for any re-sampling or QA/QC issues,

if necessary. Any last comments or feedback on the final QAPP document are requested no later than end of day on Wednesday, January 31, 2024. It's anticipated that the finalized QAPP will be signed by February 5, 2024 and the first quarterly sampling will occur in early February 2024.

Schedule Future Meeting

The next Basin Monitoring Program Task Force meeting will be scheduled via Doodle poll for February/March 2024.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 09:54 a.m.

DRAFT