

## Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force

February 27, 2024

### PARTICIPANTS PRESENT:

In Person Attendee	Brian Covellone, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Abriana Marshall, City of San Jacinto	Chris Crompton, Caltrans (MBI)
Alex Christie, City of Moreno Valley	Dan Cortese, City of Hemet
Chris Stransky, WSP USA	Garth Engelhorn, NV5
Cynthia Gabaldon, City of Menifee, Perris, and March JPA	Hunter Raskin, Willdan
Jessica Galloway, City of Perris	Jilleen Ferris, City of Hemet
John Rudolph, WSP USA	Jim Klang, WRCAC
Lauren Briggs, Regional Water Quality Control Board	Jagroop Khela, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Lenai Hunter, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District	Kris Hanson, City of Wildomar (Interwest)
Lynn Merrill, City of San Jacinto	Lauren Sotelo, March JPA
Michael Roberts, City of Riverside	Mike Ali, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Natasha Thandi, Caltrans (MBI)	Pat Boldt, WRCAC
Rohini Mustafa, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD	Rae Beimer, City of Moreno Valley
Steve Strapac, City of Menifee	Ray Hiemstra, Inland Empire Waterkeeper
Steven Wolosoff, GEI Consultants	Richard Boon, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Sudhir Mohleji, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District	Richard Meyerhoff, GEI Consultants
Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP	Ryan Kearns, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Travis Randall, City of San Jacinto	Scott Sewell, CDFW
Rachel Gray, SAWPA	Siomara Giroux, City of Beaumont
Rick Whetsel, SAWPA	Stormy Osifeso, City of Riverside
	SueAnn Neal, Regional Water Quality Control Board
	Terri Reeder, Regional Water Quality Control Board
	Bruce Whitaker, SAWPA
	T Milford Harrison, SAWPA
	Zyanya Ramirez, SAWPA

### Virtual Attendees

Abigail Suter, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD  
Adam Gufarotti, City of Lake Elsinore  
Aldo Licitra, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD

### Call to Order & Introductions

The Lake Elsinore/Canyon Lake TMDL Task (Task Force) meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Rick Whetsel, this meeting was conducted as a hybrid meeting with some participants attending in person and others remotely.

### Approval of Meeting Notes from November 28, 2023 Task Force Meeting

The November 28, 2023 meeting notes were approved as posted.

### Status: Regional Board Update (Regional Board)

Lauren Briggs, Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board informed the Task Force that staff is still reviewing the draft LECL TMDL Technical Report and proposed basin plan amendment language and is on schedule to provide comments to the Task Force by Friday, March 1, 2024.

### Update: Canyon Lake Alum Application CEQA Amendment (Tess Dunham, KSC)

Tess Dunham, KSC, provided a brief overview of the basin Plan Amendment language and then identified the key points of discussion, with the **goal of today's discussion being to receive direction from Task Force to resolve outstanding questions/issues; or, agree on approach and timetable for resolving.** Key topics/questions for discussion included:

- How should the Waste Load and Load Allocations be expressed in the TMDL? By sector or by jurisdiction?
- Does the Task Force support the Permit Incorporation Language for MS4 permits and Ag Order WDRs? Input on other sectors?
- Does the Task Force understand and support the Compliance Demonstration Options?
- When should the CNRPs be updated -before TMDLs incorporated into permit or after? How much time is needed

- Does the Task Force agree that Task 7 is the appropriate task for considering the impacts from increased TDS that may result from use of supplemental water, which may interfere with Lake Elsinore's ability to meet numeric targets? Evaluate site-specific objectives for TDS or evaluate need for revised criteria/numeric targets due to increased TDS?
- Does the Task Force agree with the description and timing of Task 9 –special study for determining de minimis sources?
- For the monitoring program update, is 6 months adequate? Also, what should be characterized as part of the monitoring program versus a special study?

Steven Wolosoff, GEI Consultants then explained the allocations for the watershed, the numeric targets, and walked through examples of the four available Compliance Demonstration Options.

Tess then followed to review the structure of the Basin Plan Amendment language, with discussion on the following key questions:

- Is this language specific enough and does it capture Task Force member preferences with respect to incorporation into permits?
- Does it address concerns expressed previously by MS4 and Ag Order permittees?
- Our further clarifications necessary?
- For non-MS4 and non-Ag Order permittees, are their additional thoughts and considerations to be considered when preparing additional language?
- For the Santa Ana Water Board staff, is this language specific enough to provide direction to permit writers in the future?

Next, she discussed the timing of the CNRP Update, with the following questions for the Task Force:

- Should the CNRP be updated before or after incorporation into the MS4 permit?
- Should the amount of time given be from the effective date of the TMDL, or the date of incorporation into the MS4 permit?
- What is an appropriate amount of time?
- Should there be reference to an equivalent Watershed Management Plan?
- Should the CNRP be approved by the Santa Ana Water Board, or the Santa Ana Water Board's Executive Officer?

Next, she discussed regarding a special study to consider de minimis parties, with the following questions for the Task Force:

- Do Task Force members support the Special Study?
- Is the scope of the Special Study as described in the Basin Plan the correct scope?
- Do the Task Force members agree that the Special Study should be conducted by the Task Force?
- Is the time for conducting the Special Study and submitting the report to the Santa Ana Water Board (i.e., within 3 years from TMDL effective date) the appropriate amount of time?
- Is additional clarification or amendments needed?

Next, she discussed regarding updates to the TMDL compliance monitoring program, with the following questions for the Task Force:

- Is 6 months from the effective date of the TMDL an adequate amount of time to prepare an updated monitoring program?
- Should Cranston Guard stationing monitoring and two additional locations be part of Task 11, or the ongoing monitoring program?

Lastly she discussed the next steps regarding the following:

- Comments on Basin Plan Amendment language
- Revised Basin Plan Amendment language
- Finalizing Technical TMDL Report
- AB 2108 compliance efforts
- Santa Ana Water Board workshop
- Public Review and Comment Period
- Santa Ana Water Board consideration

Copies of the presentation are available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials:  
<https://sawpa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/20240227-LECL-TMDL-Presentations.pdf>

### **Task Force Administration (LESJWA Staff)**

Rick Whetsel informed the Task Force that LESJWA has accepted to be the LEAD CEQA agency for the Canyon Lake Alum Application project and will be responsible for amending CEQA to extend the project. This includes approving the CEQA findings documents and filing the new Notice of Determination, in addition to their current role of contracting, coordinating and implementing the project.

LESJWA has approved an agreement with Tom Dodson and Associates to prepare a second Addendum to the adopted Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) that will address all of the original issues and several new environmental topics included in the standard Initial Study Checklist form since 2015 (such as Energy and Wildfire). The consultant will also, assist in circulating the Addendum through the project stakeholders and respond to any comments received, prepare a final Addendum package for adoption by LESJWA, and file a new Notice of Determination (NOD) with the County and submit it to the State Clearinghouse.

Additionally, it is the recommendation of the Task Force consultants that the Task Force conduct a Spring 2024 Canyon Lake alum application. Due to the significant rain that has fallen and the expectation of future storm events in the next months, it is anticipated that Canyon Lake will be overflowing late into the spring. Understanding that it will be difficult to find an ideal week to apply alum, where there is not overflow of the lake, staff will coordinate with the Task Force and our consultant, Aquatechnex to minimize the impacts of rain and lake spill over.

### **Other Business**

No Other Business was discussed.

### **Schedule Next Meeting**

The next LE/CL TMDL Task Force meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.  
[Meeting was cancelled – Next meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.]

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

### Table Summary of Agreements and Actions

<b>Date of Action/Agreement</b>	<b>Action/Agreement</b>	<b>Responsible Entities Reaching Agreement</b>
September 28, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Voting Task Force members.
November 3, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve moving forward with the proposed step-wise approach to updating the TMDL Technical Report and its timeline.</li> </ul>	Voting Task Force members
January 10, 2022	-	-
March 2, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Approved the alum application to the Canyon Lake if the February monitoring data exceeds 0.09.</li> </ul>	Voting Task Force members
April 20, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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</li> </ul>	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"> <li>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&amp;CL TMDL Task Force.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	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"> <li>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.</li> <li>Exercise an option for a two year extension with WSP USA to oversee and implement TMDL Compliance Monitoring. Program.</li> </ul>	Voting Task Force members
January 10, 2023	-	-
February 15, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Voting Task Force members.
March 28, 2023	-	-
April 25, 2023	-	-
June 5, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>	Voting Task Force members.

	remaining funds are to be applied to stakeholders 2023 LEAMS budget allocation.	
August 7, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Task Force approved for LESJWA staff to prepare a Change Order for WSPUSA for an amount not to exceed \$10,330 to perform two additional Lake Elsinore in-lake monitoring events, one each in November and December 2023 using funds available from the LE&amp;CL TMDL Task Force reserve.</li></ul>	Voting Task Force members.