

MEETING NOTES

Basin Monitoring Program Task Force March 4, 2024

STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT:

Chino Basin Water Master, Justin Nakano*

City of Corona, Melissa Estrada*

City of Rialto, Toyasha Sebbag*

City of Riverside, Nicole Greenwood*

City of Riverside (RPU), Drew Faherty*

City of Riverside (RPU), Farid Ishak Boushaki*

Eastern Municipal WD, Anthony Budicin*

Eastern Municipal WD, Doug Edwards*

Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Lenai Hunter*

Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Sudhir Mohleji*

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, Kevin O'Toole*

San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Greg Woodside*

SBMWD/RIX/JPA, Jennifer Shepardson*

WMWD/WRCRWA, Jennifer McMullin*

WMWD/WRCRWA, Mallory O'Conor*

WMWD/WRCRWA, Lyndy Lewis*

YVWD, Jennifer Ares*

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dudek, Steve Stuart*

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, Eric Lindberg*

West Yost, Samantha Adams*

West Yost, Sodavy Ou*

WSC, Michael Cruikshank*

*Participated via conference call

STAKEHOLDERS ABSENT:

Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

City of Banning

City of Redlands

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 2:31 p.m. in a virtual Zoom meeting.

Approval of January 29, 2024 Meeting Notes

The January 29, 2024 meeting notes were approved as posted.

Declaration of Conformance Presented to Regional Board on March 15th – Tess Dunham (KSC)

Tess Dunham, of Kahn, Soares, and Conway, LLP (KSC), provided a verbal report on the draft Declaration of Conformance. The Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board has scheduled the consideration for approval of the Declaration of Conformance at their upcoming March 15th Board meeting. Ms. Dunham will be providing an overview of the Declaration to the Board at that meeting. She also encouraged stakeholders to join the meeting to support the adoption of the Resolution and the Declaration of Conformance. Once adopted, it will be sent up to the State Water Board to demonstrate the Santa Ana Region has complied with the State's 2019 Recycled Water Policy.

[Final 2024 State Water Board Integrated Report](#) – Tess Dunham

Ms. Dunham provided a verbal report on the final 2024 State Water Board Integrated Report. At the last meeting, the Task Force had provided comments/revisions to the State Water Board regarding the latest round of Integrated Report listings for the Santa Ana Region. A note was provided by West Yost regarding an error in the State Water Board's staff report that was later removed as part of the final editing of the Integrated Report. The listing for Chino Creek 1B in this Integrated Report was classified as "Category 3".

Chino Creek Reach 1b Monitoring Program Update – Sodavy Ou, West Yost

Sodavy Ou, of West Yost, provided a brief verbal update regarding the status of the Chino Creek 1B Monitoring Program. IEUA and Chino Basin Watermaster are working in conjunction with West Yost to develop a monitoring program that satisfies the Regional Water Quality Control Board's, and further the State Water Board's, needs for data to inform the next Integrated Report. The monitoring program is anticipated to begin in July 2024, and once the details are developed, West Yost will provide a presentation to the Task Force.

Future Task Force Member Updates – Ian Achimore

Ian Achimore, of SAWPA, provided a verbal report regarding Future Task Force Member Updates. Cindy Li, of the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, suggested having future presentations to the Task Force by other stakeholders. For example, the local groundwater sustainability plans require different levels of modeling, monitoring, data collection, and analysis. These presentations would provide an opportunity for collaboration to support Task Force members with their own water quality-related work, as well as inform the preparation of Task Force deliverables.

Triennial Review of Basin Plan – Tess Dunham

Ms. Dunham provided a verbal report on the Triennial Review list for the Santa Ana Region Basin Plan. A preliminary priority list was released after the last Task Force meeting. The priorities were as follows:

- Complete a Basin Plan amendment to revise the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake Nutrient Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs),
- Complete a Basin Plan amendment for the Wet Weather Compliance Date Extension for the Middle Santa Ana River Watershed TMDLs,
- Complete the Copper TMDLs for Newport Bay,
- Separate the Shellfish Harvesting and Water Contact Recreation Uses from the Newport Bay Fecal Coliform TMDLs,
- Complete a Basin Plan amendment to incorporate all statewide objectives and other statewide plans and policies, and,
- Complete a Basin Plan amendment to revise and clarify the compliance with salinity objectives and update sections of the Total Dissolved Solids/Nitrogen Salt Management Plan.

The last bullet in the priority list above, *Complete a Basin Plan amendment to revise and clarify the compliance with salinity objectives and update sections of the Total Dissolved Solids/Nitrogen Salt Management Plan*, will apply to the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force directly. The Regional Water Quality Control Board is working through the clarifying details, scope and date for each of the priorities listed. Once a comment period is planned, it will be addressed at a future Basin Monitoring Program Task Force meeting for discussion and response amongst the stakeholders.

Scope of Work to Support – Samantha Adams (West Yost)

Mr. Achimore and Samantha Adams, of West Yost, provided a PowerPoint presentation titled *Agenda Item 8 Scope of Work to Support*. Ms. Adams presented a quote and proposal to the Task Force, that was distributed to the stakeholders prior to the meeting via email. There are funds left over from the 2021 Ambient Water Quality pilot project contract with West Yost and they are providing a recommendation to use those funds to support additional tasks. The proposal includes the following four tasks:

- A. Developing a scope of work to perform GMZ Storage Model Updates: This task will include defining which groundwater management zones (GMZs) should be updated and prioritizing those GMZs for when work should be completed. It would also include computing the AWQ statistics for every GMZ.
- B. Develop scope of work to perform annual data collection and management: Meet with SAWPA Staff to discuss database tool and data management options for consideration, present options to the Task Force, and collaborate with SAWPA staff to implement process.

- C. As-needed regulatory support for Basin Plan Compliance: Support implementation of the Declaration of Conformance, support development of a Basin Plan Amendment (BPA) in Fall 2024, develop documentation of milestone decisions made by in the recent past and moving forward; and,
- D. Project Management and meetings.

The scope of work will be reviewed by the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force Scoping Committee and, if the stakeholders approve, SAWPA will move forward with the proposed scope of work.

SCCWRP Comment Letter Submitted – Rachel Gray

Rachel Gray, of SAWPA, provided a brief verbal update on the comment letter submitted to Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP). The letter was submitted in response to SCCWRP’s draft technical memorandum entitled “Assessing the Influence of Salinization on Aquatic Life in Santa Ana Region Wadeable Streams” reviewed last November 2023 amongst the Task Force. SCCWRP staff responded and stated the Task Force will be able to comment on the revised version of the draft manuscript as well as receive presentations regarding the updates.

Schedule Future Meeting

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

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 03:21 p.m.