

MEETING NOTES

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

January 18, 2024

PARTICIPANTS

Abigail Gomez, City of Jurupa Valley
Abigail Suter, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Aldo Licitra, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Anthony Ortega, City of Pomona
Becky Dunavant, CDM Smith
Bernadette Kolb, CDM Smith
Chris Bland, County of San Bernardino
Claudia Tenorio, SARWQCB
Cordell Chavez, City of Corona
Cynthia Gabaldon, County of San Bernardino
Dianne Laurila, CASC Engineering
Emily Condon, CDM Smith
Jagroop Khela, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Kimberly Colbert, Colbert Environmental Group
Kris Hanson, City of Eastvale
Kyle Fructuoso, SARWQCB
Lauren Hu,
Lauren Sotelo, March JPA
Lisa Haney, OCWD
Michael Drennan, NV5
Michael Mori, County of Orange

Mike Roberts, City of Riverside
Nisha Wells, City of Chino Hills
Pat Boldt, Milk Producers Council
Ray Hiemstra, Inland Empire Waterkeeper
Rebekah Guill, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Richard Boon, 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
Siomara Giroux, City of Beaumont
Steven Wolosoff, CDM Smith
Stormy Osifeso, City of Riverside
Terri Reeder, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP
Bruce Whitaker, SAWPA
T. Milford Harrison, SAWPA
Gil Botello, SAWPA
Rachel Gray, SAWPA
Rick Whetsel, SAWPA

1. Call to Order & Introductions

The MSAR TMDL Task Force Meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. by Rick Whetsel at SAWPA with all participants participating remotely.

2. Approval of Meeting Notes from the November 20, 2023 MSAR Task Force Meeting

The November 20, 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 presentation to update on the status of the 2023-24 Santa Ana River Regional Bacteria Monitoring. This included a brief overview of the sampling program, an overview of dry weather compliance for each priority group, and general trends in the water quality data.

Next steps include the monitoring of a single storm event (as a requirement of the MSAR TMDLs) between now and March and preparation of the draft annual report due in April 2024.

A copy of CDM Smith's presentation is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: <https://sawpa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/CDMSmith-RBMP-Jan-2023-Update.pdf>.

2. RWQM Task Force Administration (SAWPA Staff)

Rick Whetsel presented to the Task force on the selection of a consulting firm to implement the Santa Ana Regional Bacteria monitoring program. This included a brief review of the RWQM Task Force, the SAR Regional Bacteria Monitoring program and the process to select a consultant to oversee and implement the Santa Ana River Regional Bacteria Monitoring Program.

The recommendation of the Proposal Technical Review Committee was to select GEI Consultants, based upon the results of the proposal evaluations and scoring, as the recommended consultant with the top proposal rating reflecting the consultant's experience, knowledge of the program, technical expertise, and working relationship with the Task Force.

Following brief discussion by stakeholders a motion was put forward by Rebekah Guill representing RCFC&WCD and seconded by Michael Mori representing County of Orange to approve the recommendation of the Proposal Technical Review Committee.

MOVED to approve recommendation of the Proposal Technical Review Committee to authorize SAWPA staff to execute an agreement with GEI Consultants to oversee and to implement the Santa Ana River Regional Bacteria Monitoring Program.

A copy of staff's presentation is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: https://sawpa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/RWQMTF-Meeting_Bacteria-Monitoring-.pdf

MSAR TMDL Meeting Items:

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

Tess Dunham provided an update on the limited Basin Plan amendment informing the Task force that they are working to address comments received. She stated that the consultant team has been meeting with Regional Board staff to discuss the schedule, timeline for compliance, justifications for the wet-weather compliance schedule, and the schedule for Regional Board to consider the updated TMDLs and are waiting on final comments from staff.

At this time, Tess and GEI are working to get this item on the Regional Board calendar before the end of the calendar year.

Moving forward, the plan is to provide that schedule at our next meeting, noting the new requirements under AB 2108, which require additional community outreach.

Richard Meyerhoff added that the consultant team was requested by Regional Board staff to provide them brief presentation on why we were recommending to extend the wet weather compliance period an additional twenty year compliance schedule. Regional Board staff is currently reviewing and we expect comments fairly soon.

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 continuing their work on 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 reported to the Task Force that the District has completed their CBRP sampling activities for 2023, and will restart CBRP sampling activities in July 2024.

c) Orange County

No update.

- d) City of Claremont
No update.
- e) City of Pomona
No update.
- f) Agricultural Operators
No update.

3. TMDL Task Force Administration (SAWPA Staff)

Rick Whetsel noted that invoices for FY 2024-25 will be issued in July.

4. Other Business

Claudia Tenorio, Supervisor of the Regional Board Regional Planning Program section that oversees Basin Planning introduced herself, and informed the Task Force of the upcoming January 31st Santa Ana River Watershed Triennial Review Water Quality Control Plan Scoping Workshop and provided a link to the workshop flyer:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/public_notices/docs/2024/triennial_review_scoping_mtg.pdf

Tess Dunham requested that if you are still planning to submit comments on the Limited Middle Santa Ana River Basin Plan Amendment to please get your comments in as soon as possible. Please reach out to Rick Whetsel if you need SAWPA to resend the draft documents.

Tess announced that the Santa Ana Regional Board has promoted Eric Lindbergh as Assistant Executive Officer.

Tess also announced that the Updated Integrated Report and Updated Staff Report are available on State Water Board website. The State Water board will be considering adoption of the 2024 303D List, which includes the Santa Ana Region at their meeting scheduled for February 7, 2024.

5. Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting is proposed as a MSAR TMDL Task Force meeting and is scheduled for Monday, March 18, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

6. Adjourn

There being no further business for review, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.