

MEETING NOTES

**Basin Monitoring Program Task Force
May 29, 2024**

STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT:

City of Beaumont, Thaxton Van Belle*
City of Beaumont, Kevin Lee*
City of Corona, Melissa Estrada*
City of Redlands, Karla Siordia*
City of Rialto, Toyasha Sebbag*
City of Riverside (RPU), Drew Faherty*
Eastern Municipal WD, Doug Edwards*
Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Jesus Gastelum*
Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Lenai Hunter*
Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Jesus Gastelum*

Inland Empire Utilities Agency, John Russ*
Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Pietro Cambiaso*
Orange County Water District, Kevin O'Toole*
SBMWD/RIX/JPA, Jennifer Shepardson*
WMWD/WRCRWA, Jennifer McMullin*
WMWD/WRCRWA, Mallory O'Conor*
YVWD, Ashley Gibson*
YVWD, Jennifer Ares*
YVWD, John Wrobel*

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dudek, Steve Stuart*
Kahn, Soares, & Conway (KSC), Theresa (Tess) Dunham*
Rubidoux Community Services District, Brian Laddusaw*
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Bruce Whitaker*
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Gil Botello*
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, Natalia Gonzalez*
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Cindy Li*
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Jagroop Khela*
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
Irvine Ranch Water District

San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Temescal Valley Water District

Call to Order/Introductions

The Basin Monitoring Program Task Force (Task Force) meeting commenced at 1:32 p.m. in a virtual Zoom meeting.

Approval of March 4, 2024 Meeting Notes

The March 4, 2024 meeting notes were approved as posted. Cindy Li, of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), provided supplemental information for the list of the Triennial Review priorities for the Santa Ana Region.

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

Sodavy Ou, of West Yost, provided a PowerPoint presentation update titled *Chino Creek Monitoring Program*. Ms. Ou provided background and objectives of the Chino Creek reaches 1A and 1B, noting that there are no objectives for Chino Creek Reach 2. In the final 2024 Integrated Report, Chino Creek Reach 1B was listed as a 305(b) Category 3, indicating that there is insufficient data to make a final determination but the limited data indicates that there may be impairment. Together, Inland Empire Utilities Agency IEUA and Chino Basin Watermaster are voluntarily working with the RWQCB to develop and implement a monitoring work plan that will allow for effective assessment of water quality moving forward. A finalized monitoring work plan is anticipated to be ready for review at the end of June 2024, with implementation anticipated to begin in July 2024. After 3 years of implementing the monthly monitoring plan, there will be an additional effort to review and analyze the resulting data.

[PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Task Force Member Update: Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (EVMWD) - Jesus Gastelum, EVMWD

Jesus Gastelum, of EVMWD, provided a PowerPoint presentation titled *EVMWD Water Supply Planning – Water Reuse and Groundwater*. This presentation is the first presentation in a new series from Task Force members so they can provide updates regarding the salt and nutrient management efforts their agencies are implementing. There is a hope that if the stakeholders are active in discussing their agency’s activities, other stakeholders will become aware of opportunities to collaborate and assist each other.

Mr. Gastelum stated that EVMWD provides service to 97 square miles that encompasses:

- 159,000 customers,
- 50,000 water connections,
- Three lakes and two dams; and,
- Three drinking water plants for potable supply.

EVMWD also operates wastewater treatment facilities that provides services to:

- 128,200 Customers, 37 lift stations, 415 miles of sewer pipeline,
- Three wastewater treatment facilities
- Sends 5,500,00 gallons per day of highly treated recycled water to Lake Elsinore; and,
- Treats 7,200,000 gallons per day of wastewater.

Mr. Gastelum stated that by 2050, EVMWD estimates that the water supply demand in their service area will double to 50,000 AFY. In order to accomplish EVMWD’s growing need for water supply, they have assessed options through their 2017 Integrated Resources Plan like recycled water, groundwater, seawater desalination, water banking and transfers, stormwater capture and water conservation. Like many other agencies, the increased capacity to provide these resources is beneficial as it decreases dependence on imported water and increases dry-year reliability and flexibility.

Mr. Gastelum also discussed EVMWD’s Upper Temescal Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP), developed in partnership with Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD), to manage the Upper Temescal Valley’s water quality. Due to historical exceedances of permitted effluent discharge from the water reclamation facility, a salt offset was required. In developing the SNMP, EVMWD will implement a monitoring and reporting program, including annual and triennial reporting efforts on water supply and discharge water quality. After 9 years of technical work and analysis, a maximum benefit program was approved by the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board for the Elsinore Groundwater Management Zone (GMZ). Mr. Gastelum also provided an overview of EVMWD’s implementation and response to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Their Groundwater Sustainability Plan aims to achieve and demonstrate compliance by 2042 through their groundwater management activities.

[PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Update on BMP Task Force Santa Ana River Surface Water Quality Monitoring – Ian Achimore, SAWPA

Ian Achimore, of SAWPA, provided a verbal update regarding the Santa Ana River Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program that is conducted by Consultant WE on behalf of the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force. Since the launch of the CWE contract in 2024, two quarterly sampling events have occurred successfully at the 3 monitoring sites in Santa Ana River reaches 4 and 5, with the next sampling planned for August 2024. No issues or safety concerns have occurred during these two events. The data that is provided by the monitoring program will be used in the Annual Report of Santa Ana River Water Quality that is assembled annually by SAWPA Staff, Rick Whetsel.

Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) Draft Manuscript Update – Rachel Gray, SAWPA

Rachel Gray, of SAWPA, provided a verbal update regarding the previously reviewed and discussed draft manuscript prepared by SCCWRP titled “Assessing the influence of salinization on aquatic life in Santa Ana region wadeable stream” that was previously presented to the Task Force. SCCWRP is still finalizing the

revisions and is in contact with SAWPA to ensure that the Task Force will be able to review the manuscript in its revised form.

In addition, SCCWRP has expressed interest of presenting another manuscript for feedback that's connected to work being conducted for the Central Valley Regional Board on the topic of biointegrity in modified channels. Ms. Tess Dunham, of Kahn, Soares and Conway, LLP commented that the Task Force should be aware that there is quite a bit of regulatory discussion happening in the biological realm. For example, the San Diego Regional Board has recently set biological objectives based on reference conditions, and those objectives are currently pending approval with the State Water Board. Biological reference conditions will be a topic that will be monitored and brought back to the Task Force for discussion in future meetings.

Doodle Poll for Next Meeting

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

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

DRAFT