

Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force

June 17, 2024

PARTICIPANTS PRESENT:

Abigail Suter, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD	Pat Boldt, WRCAC
Adam Gufarotti, City of Lake Elsinore	Rachael Johnson, Riverside County Farm Bureau
Aldo Licitra, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD	Rae Beimer, City of Moreno Valley
Alex Christie, City of Moreno Valley	Ray Hiemstra, Inland Empire Waterkeeper
Anthony Budicin, EMWD	Rebekah Guill, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Chris Stransky, WSP USA	Richard Boon, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Carlos Norvani, City of Lake Elsinore	Richard Meyerhoff, GEI Consultants
Cynthia Gabaldon, City of Menifee, Perris, and March JPA	Rohini Mustafa, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Dustin Christensen, City of Beaumont	Ryan Kearns, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Jilleen Ferris, City of Hemet	Scott Sewell, CDFW
Jim Klang, WRCAC	Steven Wolosoff, GEI Consultants
John Rudolph, WSP USA	Stormy Osifeso, City of Riverside
Kris Hanson, City of Wildomar (Interwest)	Sudhir Mohleji, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Larry Rodriguez, GEI Consultants	Terry McNabb, Aquatechnex
Lauren Briggs, Regional Water Quality Control Board	Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP
Lauren Sotelo, March JPA	Bruce Whitaker, SAWPA
Lenai Hunter, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District	T Milford Harrison, SAWPA
Lynn Merrill, City of San Jacinto	Gil Botello, SAWPA
Michael Roberts, City of Riverside	Rachel Gray, SAWPA
Natasha Thandi, Caltrans (MBI)	Rick Whetsel, SAWPA
Nate Smith, City of Banning	Melissa Bustamonte, SAWPA

Call to Order & Introductions

The Lake Elsinore/Canyon Lake TMDL Task (Task Force) meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by Rick Whetsel, with all participants participating remotely.

Approval of Meeting Notes from May 13, 2024 Task Force Meeting

The May 13, 2024 meeting notes were approved as posted.

Status: Regional Board Update (Regional Board)

Lauren Briggs, Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board reminded stakeholders that a Board Workshop on the LE&CL TMDL updates is planned for September 13, 2024 and a Board Adoption Hearing for October 25, 2024.

Lauren also informed the Task Force that Regional Board staff has been meeting with EPA to discuss the LE&CL TMDLs and is scheduled to have a final wrap up meeting with EPA next weeks to address any final questions from EPA. She noted that to date the meetings with EPA have been positive.

Moving forward she stated that Regional Board staff is planning to start the AB 2108 public outreach process for the LE&CL TMDLs. This outreach will continue over the next couple of months before the adoption hearing.

Presentation: Alum and Lanthanum Alternatives (Terry McNabb, Aquatechnex)

Terry McNabb, Aquatechnex presented to the Task Force on chemical treatment options for in-lake phosphorus removal. This included a review of the on-going Canyon Lake alum treatment program, as well as an evaluation of lanthanum as an alternative to alum including several case studies.

Tess Dunhan raised the question if the Task Force should consider, as part of the effort to amend CEQA for the Canyon Lake alum treatment program, including lanthanum as a treatment alternative, should the Task Force in the future decide to want to make the switch to lanthanum.

It was requested that an analysis be performed to estimate the cost to apply lanthanum to Canyon Lake as compared to an alum application. Steven Wolosoff will coordinate with Terry McNabb to work up a cost estimate to compare the two treatment alternatives.

Copies of the presentation prepared by Terry McNabb are available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: <https://sawpa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Aquatechnex-LESJWA-Lanthanum.pdf>

Update: Lake Elsinore Water Quality Plan (Adam Gufarotti, City of Lake Elsinore)

Adam Gufarotti, representing the City of Lake Elsinore provided an update to the Task Force on the City of Lake Elsinore Water Quality Plan initiated by the City in August 2023.

The goal of the City's Water Quality Plan is to implement a comprehensive treatment program for Lake Elsinore to address water quality issues related to algae blooms. This program includes a Nanobubble pilot treatment system, the application of Peroxide-based algaecide, and treatments of lanthanum. Adam stated that the City began applying green pro algaecide in October and has continued with monthly applications. The lanthanum applications will begin once permitting has been resolved with Regional Board.

In addition to this effort, the City has also begun the implementation of regular shoreline maintenance and clean up, working with their Public Works Department and an outside contractor.

The City of Lake Elsinore is also coordinating with Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District on an evaluation of the Lake Elsinore aeration and mixing system and other treatment options.

Update: LEAMS Future Options Study (Steve Wolosoff, GEI)

Steven Wolosoff, GEI provided an update to the Task Force on the Lake Elsinore In-Lake Nutrient Reduction Alternatives Analysis being conducted and funded by the LEAMS Operators in support of the LE&CL TMDL Task Force.

The primary goal of this study is to conduct in-depth analysis of alternatives to improve N&P offsets in Lake Elsinore, as well as to improve the overall lake water quality.

For today's meeting Steven presented to the Task Force on the following:

Phase 2 Program of Implementation– provided a brief overview of how the project supports the proposed implementation schedule for the LE&CL TMDLs Update

Project Update – included discussion on the following tasks:

- LEAMS Condition Assessment
- Sediment Study
- Refined Targets
- Evaluation of Options

Current Water Quality – brief review and update on current in lake water quality conditions.

The schedule to complete this study is as follows:

May 2024: Identification of alternatives, scientific analysis, vendor coordination, preliminary engineering

June 2024: Condition Assessment, Sediment study sample collection, evaluation criteria

July-Sept 2024: Engineering and cost analysis

Oct 2024: Draft report and recommendation

Dec 2024: Final report and recommendation

Copies of the presentation prepared by Steve Wolosoff are available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: <https://sawpa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/GEI-Lake-Elsinore-In-Lake-Options-Study-update-to-LECL-Task-Force-061724.pdf>

Update: TMDL Update Activities (Tess Dunham, KSC and Steve Wolosoff, GEI)

Tess Dunham, KSC, informed stakeholders that she is still working on revisions to the Basin Plan Amendment language. She intends to get out revised draft Basin Plan Amendment language for review by the LE&CL TMDL Task Force by the end of next week (June 28, 2024) for review and comment by stakeholders and at the same time GEI is working to prepare the Executive Summary.

The plan moving forward is to deliver the final language to Regional Board staff by mid-July to allow Regional Board staff ample time to prepare for the Board Workshop scheduled for September 13, 2024 and Board Adoption Hearing scheduled for October 25, 2024.

As part of the process to update the TMDLs the TMDL Task Force was requested by Regional Board staff for support in addressing AB 2108 Legislation for outreach to tribes and environmental justice communities. Regional Board stated that the AB 2108 outreach should begin as soon as possible and is expected to be ongoing right up until adoption hearing for the TMDLs (AB 2108 Outreach August-October 2024). LESJWA staff requested approval from the Task Force to support Regional board staff in this effort. Following discussion, it was suggested that there not be a formal motion, but as part of the process to update the TMDLs LESJWA staff will provide support as needed.

Discussion: Task Force Comments to MS4 Tentative Order (Tess Dunham /KSC)

Tess Dunham, KSC presented to the Task Force a draft set of comments on Appendix 12 of the draft Tentative Order for the Regional MS4 Permit (Exhibit 1 to the Task Force comment letter). She then proceeded to review the suggested red lined comments to Appendix 12 stating that were comments provided in these documents are specific to the LECL Task Force and do not repeat comments submitted on the Staff Working Proposal.

This red-lined version of Appendix 12 (Exhibit 1), which addresses compliance with the 2004 LE&CL TMDLs was distributed to the Task Force just prior to today's meeting along with a draft comment letter on the draft Tentative Order for the Regional MS4 Permit. Tess requested final comments be submitted to her by June 26, 2024 in preparation of submitting a comment letter to the Regional Board by the July 3, 2024 deadline.

Copies of Draft Comment Letter and Exhibit 1 prepared by Tess Dunham are available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials:

- Draft Letter: https://sawpa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/06_08_2024-Santa-Ana-Region-Tentative-MS4-Permit.docx
- Exhibit 1 - <https://sawpa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Exhibit-1-to-LECL-Task-Force-Comments-Appendix-12-with-redlines.docx>

Task Force Administration (LESJWA Staff)

Rick Whetsel presented two action items to the task force for consideration of approval:

- 1) Recommendation for the Task Force to direct LESJWA staff to apply excess funds being held in the Task Force reserve account for stakeholders who purchased 2023 LEAMS nutrient offset credits to reduce their budgeted FY 2024-25 LEAMS nutrient offset credit contribution.

Following brief discussion, a motion was put forward by Lynn Merrill representing the City of San Jacinto and seconded by Cynthia Gabaldon representing the City of Perris to approve.

MOVED to approve LESJWA staff to apply excess funds being held in the Task Force reserve account for stakeholders who purchased 2023 LEAMS nutrient offset credits to reduce their budgeted FY 2024-25 LEAMS nutrient offset credit contribution.

- 2) Recommendation for the Task Force to direct LESJWA staff to prepare and authorize a Change Order Request for WSP USA for additional water quality monitoring to support the efforts of the LE&CL TMDL Task Force for an amount not to exceed \$7,400.

Following brief discussion, a motion was put forward by Lynn Merrill representing the City of San Jacinto and seconded by Sudhir Mohleji representing Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District to approve.

MOVED to approve LESJWA staff to prepare and authorize a Change Order Request for WSP USA for additional water quality monitoring for an amount not to exceed \$7,400.

Other Business

No Other Business was discussed.

Schedule Next Meeting

The next LE/CL TMDL Task Force meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 22, 2024, at 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

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Table Summary of Agreements and Actions

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

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