

Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force

May 13, 2024

PARTICIPANTS PRESENT:

Adam Gufarotti, City of Lake Elsinore	Lenai Hunter, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Aldo Licitra, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD	Lynn Merrill, City of San Jacinto
Alex Christie, City of Moreno Valley	Michael Roberts, City of Riverside
Ann Marie Loconte, City of Banning	Natasha Thandi, Caltrans (MBI)
Ben Foster, City of Lake Elsinore	Pat Boldt, WRCAC
Brian Covellone, Regional Water Quality Control Board	Rachael Johnson, Riverside County Farm Bureau
Chris Stransky, WSP USA	Ryan Kearns, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Cynthia Gabaldon, City of Menifee, Perris, and March JPA	Scott Bruckner, Riverside County Executive Office
Erin Sasse, EVMWD	Shirley Colvin, City of Perris
Garth Engelhorn, NV5	Steven Wolosoff, GEI Consultants
Jessica Galloway, City of Perris	Stormy Osifeso, City of Riverside
Jilleen Ferris, City of Hemet	Sudhir Mohleji, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Jim Klang, WRCAC	Terri Reeder, Regional Water Quality Control Board
John Rudolph, WSP USA	Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP
Kris Hanson, City of Wildomar (Interwest)	Bruce Whitaker, SAWPA
Larry Rodriguez, GEI Consultants	T Milford Harrison, SAWPA
Lauren Briggs, Regional Water Quality Control Board	Rachel Gray, SAWPA
Lauren Sotelo, March JPA	Rick Whetsel, SAWPA

Call to Order & Introductions

The Lake Elsinore/Canyon Lake TMDL Task (Task Force) meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Rick Whetsel, with all participants participating remotely.

Approval of Meeting Notes from February 27, 2024 Task Force Meeting

The February 27, 2024 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 submitted comments on the draft language for the Basin Plan amendment and TMDL Technical Report consultant team.

Lauren also informed the Task Force that Regional Board staff has been meeting with EPA to discuss the LE&CL TMDLs and expects to have a final meeting with EPA in the next couple of weeks to respond to EPA comments.

Moving forward Regional Board is tentatively planning a Board Workshop on the LE&CL TMDL updates for September 13, 2024 and a Board Adoption Hearing for October 25, 2024.

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

Tess Dunham, KSC, presented slides on the Basin Plan Amendment language to provide the Task Force with a high level status update on discussions and comments with various stakeholders, Regional Board and EPA staff, as well as the status of the draft documents.

Next steps, Tess and her team will be preparing a revised draft Basin Plan Amendment language for review by the LE&CL TMDL Task Force by the week of June 3, 2024 for review and discussion at the June 17, 2024 Task Force meeting. Comments are due to Tess by July 1, 2024 in preparation of preparing final language to be submitted to Regional Board staff by July 15, 2024 to allow Regional Board staff ample time to prepare for the Board Workshop tentatively scheduled for September 13, 2024 followed by a Board Adoption Hearing tentatively scheduled for October 25, 2024.

As part of the process to update the TMDLs The TMDL Task Force will be working with Regional Board staff to address AB 2108 Legislation for outreach to tribes and environmental justice communities. Lauren noted the need for an outreach plan to be developed to address AB 2108. Tess suggested that LESJWA staff could

possibly bring on Liselle DeGrave to help with the preparation of the plan. Lauren informed the Task Force that that we should initiate the AB 2108 outreach as soon as possible and that it is expected to be ongoing right up until adoption hearing for the TMDLs (AB 2108 Outreach August-October 2024).

LESJWA staff will reach out to setup a call with Liselle DeGrave, and Regional Board staff to discuss the details of the plan.

Regional Board staff will also be circulating the Tentative Documents for Public Review and Comment period of at least 45-day review period, and maybe longer (60 days) beginning in August and at least through September.

Additionally, Tess and her team will be circulating a draft Executive Summary for Technical TMDL Report to the Task Force by June 30, 2024 for review and comment.

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

Tess Dunham, KSC presented slides on the MS4 Tentative Order to highlight suggested comments from the Task Force to Regional Board.

Comments on Tentative Order are due to Regional Board by July 3, 2024. The LE&CL TMDL Task Force submitted comments on Staff Working Proposal back in April 2022.

Tess will be preparing a draft comment letter on the MS4 Tentative Order for review by the LE&CL TMDL Task Force by June 3, 2024 and discussion at the June 17, 2024 Task Force meeting. Final comments will be due to Tess by June 24, 2024 in preparation of submitting a comment letter to Regional Board by the July 3, 2024 deadline.

Discussion: Response to Audit Findings (Tess Dunham /KSC)

Tess Dunham, KSC, presented slides on the CNRP Audit to highlight suggested comments from the Task Force to Regional Board.

Comments on CNRP Audit are due to Regional Board by May 31, 2024. Tess will be preparing a draft comment letter on the CNRP Audit for review by the LE&CL TMDL Task Force by May 22, 2024. Comments will be due to Tess by May 28, 2024 in preparation of submitting a comment letter to Regional Board by the May 31, 2024 deadline.

Copies of Tess's presentation slides are available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: https://sawpa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/May-13-2024-LECL-Task-Force-Meeting_updated.pdf

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

Steven Wolosoff, GEI provided a brief overview of 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 an overview of the project describing key project tasks including :

- Condition Assessment – to estimate remaining useful life of the existing Lake Elsinore Aeration Mixing System
- Sediment Study - to compute total oxygen demand from bottom sediments in Lake Elsinore
- Evaluation of Options – to identify the preferred technology based upon an assessment of key factors including effectiveness, and cost.

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 Steve's presentation slides are available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: <https://sawpa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Lake-Elsinore-In-Lake-Options-Study-update-to-LECL-Task-Force-051324.pdf>

Update: Spring 2024 Alum Application (LESJWA Staff)

Rick Whetsel, provided a brief update on the spring 2024 Canyon Lake Alum Application conducted the week of April 22, 2024.

The alum application was successful; however, an algal bloom and minor fish die-off (possibly 100 or more shad) occurred during the week creating some concern by Canyon Lake residents.

LESJWA staff coordinated with the City of Canyon Lake, the Canyon Lake Property Owners Association, and Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, as well as our project consultants Aquatechnex and WSP USA. Additional water quality samples were collected and LESJWA staff will prepare a report on any findings, once water quality results are available.

Rick also informed the Task Force that he was notified by Aquatechnex that the cost of alum has increased significantly (from \$1.18/gal to \$1.45/gal) and suggested that Aquatechnex be invited to a future Task Force meeting to share information on available chemical alternatives (lanthanum compounds) and how they compare to alum.

Task Force Administration (LESJWA Staff)

Rick Whetsel informed stakeholders that the GEI Consultants Change Order request for additional funds of \$20,000 for additional work not included in the approved FY 2023-2024 Technical Support Services scope of work was approved by stakeholders via email. This change order includes the following additional technical analysis and revisions to TMDL documents to be completed by June 30, 2024:

- (1) compute alternative model performance metrics,
- (2) compare the TMDL models with USEPA's 2021 304a criteria
- (3) create an executive summary for the technical report, and
- (4) accommodate multiple refinements to figures and language throughout. In addition, further review and research into key stakeholder concerns expressed at the February 27 workshop will be completed to support comment responses or recommendations for changes to applicable technical elements of the revised TMDLs.
- (5) Submit a draft executive summary will be provided by June 30

Other Business

No Other Business was discussed.

Schedule Next Meeting

The next LE/CL TMDL Task Force meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 17, 2024, at 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

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.