

## Emerging Constituents Program Task Force

August 12, 2024

### ATTENDEES:

<b>Babcock Laboratories</b> , Allison Mackenzie	<b>OC San</b> , Rob Thompson
<b>CASA</b> , Jared Voskuhl	<b>OC San</b> , Matt Smith
<b>City of Redlands</b> , Paul Mariscal	<b>Riverside Public Utilities</b> , Greg Herzog
<b>City of Rialto</b> , Toyasha Sebbag	<b>Riverside Public Utilities</b> , Robin Glenney
<b>Dopudja &amp; Wells Consulting</b> , Jason Pivovarovff	<b>RWQCB</b> , Jayne Joy
<b>Chino Basin Watermaster</b> , Justin Nakano	<b>RWQCB</b> , Cindy Li
<b>EVWMD</b> , Lenai Hunter	<b>RWQCB</b> , Maile Gee
<b>EVMWD</b> , Sudhir Mohleji	<b>RWQCB</b> , Pamela Ybarra
<b>EMWD</b> , Mike Ali	<b>SAWPA</b> , Bruce Whitaker
<b>EMWD</b> , Doug Edwards	<b>SAWPA</b> , Gil Botello
<b>IEUA</b> , Bonita Fan	<b>SAWPA</b> , T. Milford Harrison
<b>IEUA</b> , Sushmitha Redd	<b>SAWPA</b> , Jeff Mosher
<b>IEUA</b> , Pietro Cambiaso	<b>SAWPA</b> , Rachel Gray
<b>IEUA</b> , Stephen Parker	<b>SAWPA</b> , Ian Achimore
<b>IRWD</b> , Jim Colston	<b>SAWPA</b> , Rick Whetsel
<b>Kahn, Soares, &amp; Conway, LLP</b> , Theresa (Tess) Dunham	<b>SAWPA</b> , Natalia Gonzalez
<b>Metropolitan Water District of Southern California</b> , Ai Jia	<b>SCCWRP</b> , Dr. Charles Wong
<b>Metropolitan Water District of Southern California</b> , Carrie Guo	<b>SBMWD/RIX JPA</b> , Marissa Flores-Acosta
<b>Metropolitan Water District of Southern California</b> , Jonathan Zapata	<b>SWRCB</b> , Wendy Linck
<b>Metropolitan Water District of Southern California</b> , Lucy Li	<b>West Yost</b> , Lucy Hedley
<b>Metropolitan Water District of Southern California</b> , Theresa Slifko	<b>WMWD</b> , Lyndy Lewis
<b>Metropolitan Water District of Southern California</b> , Monna Tabarani	<b>WMWD</b> , Jennifer McMullin
<b>Metropolitan Water District of Southern California</b> , Samuel Patton	<b>WSP</b> , Chris Stransky
<b>OCWD</b> , Jason Dadakis	<b>WSP</b> , John Roudolph
<b>OCWD</b> , Patrick Versluis	<b>YVWD</b> , Ashley Gibson
<b>OC San</b> , Jennifer Cabral	<b>Yorba Linda WD</b> , Rosanne Weston

### Introductions

The Emerging Constituents (EC) Program Task Force (Task Force) meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. in a virtual Zoom Meeting. Brief introductions were made.

### Approval of January 22 and April 8, 2024 Meeting Notes

Meeting notes were approved as posted.

### [Supercritical Water Oxidation Project – Rob Thompson, Orange County Sanitation District](#)

Rob Thompson, General Manager of Orange County Sanitation District (OC San), provided a PowerPoint presentation titled *Supercritical Water Oxidation Technology* explaining today's wastewater management. Mr. Thompson covered the water and energy processes of converting wastewater into biosolids. Biosolids are transported to composting facilities in the Kern and Inland Empire area, which then get used in Yuma, Arizona for direct land acquisition and composting.

Mr. Thompson covered today's challenges with PFAS, microplastics, methane and electric haul trucks. OC San is currently focused on finding cost effective alternatives. One of these alternatives includes Supercritical Water Oxidation (SCWO). 374Water<sup>o</sup> who has been contracted with by OC San for approximately 2 years, is in the process of developing a machine that will turn six tons of biosolids, raw sludge or food waste into a safe, benign by-product. Mr. Thompson explained the process of the conversion, inner workings and improvements to the machine along with sludge testing.

The cost for the project is about \$8 million, which includes a federal earmark of \$3.4 million from U.S. Representative Lou Correr's office. Orlando, Florida will test run a machine that was built back in March of 2024, which they will run in Orlando's Biosolids, tune it and make some geometry changes to how they feed their reactor. 374Water<sup>o</sup> is expected to deliver a new machine and will operate the machine for 1 year to get it running perfectly before it is turned over to OC San. OC San is also looking into Deep-Well injection as another alternative that will help offset the carbon emissions that would come from a unit that produces a large amount of Co2.

#### **Emerging Constituent Issue of Microplastics – Theresa Slifko, Metropolitan Water District**

Theresa Slifko, Chemistry Unit Manager, of MWD, provided a PowerPoint presentation discussing the science of microplastics from a technical perspective. The purpose of this presentation is to address microplastic inquires and how the material is detected. Included in the presentation were recent publications focused on,

- Microplastics in air and rain
- Microplastics in urban waters (Amsterdam)
- California's "Inter-lab Validation Study"

Dr. Slifko provided a timeline of the progression of analysis surrounding microplastics since October of 2019. The main challenge with microplastics analysis is the amount of time it takes to process samples. Covered in the presentation included analytical methods for detecting microplastics in drinking water along with the evolution of environmental methods.

The next steps are still unknown. The State Water Board has much work to do issuing monitoring orders. More time and research are needed to complete research prior to monitoring.

#### **Regulatory Report and Updates – Tess Dunham, KSC**

Tess Dunham, of Kahn, Soares and Conway, LLP, provided a verbal report. The State Water Board's Primary Maximum Containment Level for Hexavalent Chromium package was submitted to the Office of Administration Law (OAL) on June 13, 2024 and approved by OAL July 24, 2024. The effective date of the new rule is October 1, 2024. The compliance date for drinking water systems that have greater than 10,000 service connections to comply with this MCL is October 1, 2026. Systems that have service connections in the range of 9,999-1,000 will have until 2027, while service connections less than 1,000 will have until October 1, 2028.

Lastly, in July 2024, the EPA updated recommendations for tribes and territories to consider monitoring for PFAS and freshwater fish.

#### **General Update on PFAS and Microplastics – Maile Gee, Regional Board**

Maile Gee, of RWQCB, provided a general update of PFAS and microplastics at the Regional Board level. Data is still being collected for PFAS Investigation Orders for chrome plating and bulk fuel terminal facilities. While data is still being collected and investigations are to be made, a detailed update is anticipated for the next meeting. Regarding PFAS, Wendy Linck of SWRCB will be providing an update on the community water systems testing study at the Water Education Seminar for the California Nevada section of American Water Works Association which will be held on August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Ms. Linck agreed to provide an update to the Task Force when there is time, as it could be a topic of interest.

Ms. Gee provided an update on the Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council (ITRC) Microplastics Outreach Toolkit that was released in June 2024. A finalized PDF [handout](#) was provided to the task force.

**Update on EC Task Force Outreach Efforts – Ian Achimore, SAWPA**

Ian Achimore, of SAWPA, informed the task force, Melissa Bustamonte, Communications Specialist of SAWPA, has moved into a position with another water agency. Mr. Achimore will be filling in to provide a quick update regarding the work of the EC Public Outreach Workgroup in collaboration with the PR workgroup’s ongoing blog called *Your SoCal Tap Water*. The theme for the upcoming September topic is *Preserving Clean Water for the Future* with the topic, *Orange County Water District, GWRs Final Expansion*. Ian will be working with OCWD for this blog post. July’s blog, which still needs to be updated before it is released, is focused on the Santa Ana River Conservation Conjunctive Use Program. There are plans to work with planning managers from various agencies who are the leads for the conjunctive use project to use for August’s monthly topic.

**Overview of EC Task Force Budget Development Process for Fiscal Years Ending 2026 and 2027 – Ian Achimore, SAWPA**

Mr. Achimore provided a quick presentation on budget development. The purpose of the presentation is to put the current and past budgets into context so Task Force members can consider items they may want implemented in the next two fiscal years (FYE26-FYE27). The upcoming budget is set to be in place by December 2024, so it may be adopted July 1, 2025. Next steps include SAWPA to present a draft budget for the upcoming November 2024 meeting. Budget will have recommended dollar amounts for revenue and expenses. SAWPA encourages various members in the interim to gather information and may schedule a special budget meeting to prepare draft budget recommendations for the November meeting.

**Future Speaker Ideas? – Ian Achimore, SAWPA**

If there are any topics or suggestions for presentation to the Emerging Constituents Program Task Force, please feel free to contact Ian Achimore or SAWPA Staff to share your thoughts and requests.

**Schedule Future Meeting via Doodle – Ian Achimore, SAWPA**

The next Emerging Constituents Program Task Force will be scheduled via doodle poll for November 2024.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.