

Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force

August 27, 2024

PARTICIPANTS PRESENT:

Abigail Suter, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD	Lynn Merrill, City of San Jacinto
Adam Gufarotti, City of Lake Elsinore	Mayra Martinez
Andy Komor, PACE Engineering	Michael Roberts, City of Riverside
Aldo Licitra, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD	Natasha Thandi, Caltrans (MBI)
Alex Christie, City of Moreno Valley	Pat Boldt, WRCAC
Alison Trollier, Eco Oxygen Tech	Rebekah Guill, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Ann Marie Loconte, City of Banning	Richard Boon, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Ben Foster, City of Lake Elsinore	Richard Meyerhoff, GEI Consultants
Brian Covellone, Regional Water Quality Control Board	Ryan Kearns, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Chris Stransky, WSP USA	Scott Bruckner, Riverside County Executive Office
Carlos Norvani, City of Lake Elsinore	Shirley Colvin, City of Perris
Cynthia Gabaldon, City of Menifee, Perris, and March JPA	Steven Wolosoff, GEI Consultants
Dan Cortese, City of Hemet	Stormy Osifeso, City of Riverside
Evan Chen, GEI Consultants	Sudhir Mohleji, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Garth Engelhorn, NV5	Terri Reeder, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Greg Clark, Caltrans District 8	Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP
Jilleen Ferris, City of Hemet	T Milford Harrison, SAWPA
Jim Klang, WRCAC	Gil Botello, SAWPA
Jagroop Khela, Regional Water Quality Control Board	Rachel Gray, SAWPA
John Rudolph, WSP USA	Rick Whetsel, SAWPA
Lauren Briggs, Regional Water Quality Control Board	Zyanya Ramirez, SAWPA
Lauren Sotelo, March JPA	

Call to Order & Introductions

The Lake Elsinore/Canyon Lake TMDL Task (Task Force) meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Rick Whetsel, with all participants participating remotely.

Approval of Meeting Notes from July 23, 2024 Task Force Meeting

The July 23, 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 of changes to the Regional Board schedule. The Board Workshop on the LE&CL TMDL updates planned for September 13, 2024 has been canceled, due to a conflict with the MS4 Permit workshop being scheduled for the same meeting.

Instead Regional Board is planning to open the 45 day public comment period no later than October 1, 2024. The public comment period will continue until noon on November 15, 2024, then Regional Board staff is planning to move straight into the adoption hearing scheduled for December 13, 2024.

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

Tess Dunham, KSC, presented to stakeholders an update on the TMDL documents and schedule moving forward. This included the following:

- Update of Task Force activities and deliverables to Regional Board staff
 - Submittal of the final draft Basin Plan Amendment language and Technical TMDL Report to Santa Ana Water Board staff on August 20th and 21st respectively.
- Review of the Santa Ana Water Board schedule:
 - August-October - AB 2108 outreach
 - October-November - public review and comment (45-day review period)
 - December 13, 2024 - Santa Ana Water Board Adoption Hearing
- Organization of final draft BPA:
 - TMDL components

- Implementation plan components
- Review of significant revisions of interest

Next Steps for Basin Plan Amendments

- Internal Review of BPA by Santa Ana Water Board's Legal Counsel
- Final Edits by Santa Ana Water Board staff
- Notice of Availability and Release for 45-day Public Comment Period
- Prepare Response to Comments from Public Comment Period
- Santa Ana Water Board member briefings
- Santa Ana Water Board consideration for adoption (December 13, 2024)

A copy of the presentation prepared by Tess Dunham is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: <https://sawpa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/August-27-2024-LECL-Task-Force-Meeting.pdf>

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.

Today's meeting included discussion on the following:

- Update on the sediment study
- Review of in-lake treatment options:
 - Oxygen delivery systems (evaluation includes: 4 system configurations and 4 delivery technologies)
 - Recirculating wetland treatment
 - Algae biomass harvesting
 - Chemical addition
- Update on current system operations

Next steps include the following:

- Develop and finalize evaluation criteria
- Rank alternatives
- Draft report
- Present draft report at November 2024 TMDL Task Force meeting
- Final report

Steven's next update to the Task Force is scheduled for November 2024.

A copy of the presentation prepared by Steve Wolosoff is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: <https://sawpa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Lake-Elsinore-In-Lake-Options-Study-update-to-LECL-Task-Force-082724.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.

Adam provided an update on cyanobacteria (microcystin toxin) monitoring currently being conducted by the City. At this time the Lake is looking pretty good in terms of microcystin toxin levels, with the latest data showing each of the monitoring locations to be at the Caution or warning Level, as determined by Regional Board. Since that time the City has increased its algaecide treatments.

The City is still working with Regional Board staff on a de minimis impact permit to add Phoslock (lanthanum based chemical) to treat the Lake.

Adam will continue to provide updates to stakeholders at future Task Force meetings as appropriate.

Update: Update: Fall 2024 Canyon Lake Alum Application (LESJWA Staff)

Rick Whetsel reminded the Task Force that the upcoming Fall 2024 Canyon Lake alum application is being planned for late September – early October. LESJWA staff will coordinate with Aquatechnex and GEI staff to plan this upcoming alum application.

In support of the alum application program, LESJWA staff, in coordination with DeGrave Communications, will conduct a public workshop for Canyon Lake residents to inform them of the benefits of the alum application and to address any safety concerns. This event is yet to be scheduled.

Task Force Administration (LESJWA Staff)

Rick Whetsel presented two action items for consideration of approval by the Task Force:

- 1) Recommendation for the Task Force to direct LESJWA staff to extend Agreement for Services with Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway to serve as Regulatory Compliance Expert for the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force for two additional years for FYEs 2026 and 2027.

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 extend Agreement for Services with Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway to serve as Regulatory Compliance Expert for the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force for two additional years for FYEs 2026 and 2027.

- 2) Recommendation for the Task Force to direct LESJWA staff to exercise the option to extend the Agreement for Services with Aquatechnex to provide semi-annual Canyon Lake alum dosings to support the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task force. This Agreement has an option to extend the work by Aquatechnex for two additional years for CYs 2025 and 2026.

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 direct LESJWA staff to exercise the option to extend the Agreement for Services with Aquatechnex in one year increments. This request to proceed in one year increments provides for the opportunity for the Task Force to consider alternative treatment (such as lanthanum based compounds) for the second year.

MOVED to approve LESJWA staff to extend Agreement with Aquatechnex in one year increments. At this time LESJWA staff will extend the agreement for CT 2025 to provide for two semi-annual Canyon Lake alum dosings to support the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task force.

Mr. Whetsel next informed the Task Force that the Agreement for Services with WSPUSA is scheduled to expire end on June 30, 2025 and with that being said the Task Force will proceed to issue a request for proposals (RFP) to bring on-board a consultant to oversee and implement the TMDL compliance monitoring in FY 2025-26. Due to the scheduling of the Regional Board Adoption Hearing for the revised LE&CL TMDLs in December 2024, he suggested that the Task Force hold off on issuing the RFP until after the outcome of the Adoption Hearing has been determined.

Additionally, LESJWA staff was informed by WSPUSA that key LE&CL TMDL Compliance Monitoring program staff will be leaving WSPUSA and taking new positions with GEI Consultants. Due to the professional expertise and working knowledge of these key individuals on the LE&CL TMDL compliance monitoring

program, the Task Force requested that LESJWA staff contact WSPUSA to arrange for the staff to be retained, through a sub-contract with GEI Consultants, as part of the LE&CL TMDL Compliance Monitoring program team.

Other Business

No Other Business was discussed.

Schedule Next Meeting

The next LE/CL TMDL Task Force meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 30, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 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.
August 27 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task Force approved LESJWA staff to extend Agreement for Services with Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway to serve as Regulatory Compliance Expert for the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force for two additional years for FYEs 2026 and 2027. Task Force approved LESJWA staff to extend Agreement with Aquatechnex in one-year increments. At this time LESJWA staff will extend the agreement for CT 2025 to provide for two semi-annual Canyon Lake alum dosings to support the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task force. 	Voting Task Force members.