

MEETING NOTES

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

STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT:

Chino Basin Water Master, Edgar Tellez Foster
Chino Basin Water Master, Justin Nakano
City of Beaumont, Thaxton Van Belle
City of Beaumont, Kevin Lee
City of Redlands, Karla Siordia
City of Riverside, Gisela Lopez
City of Riverside, Jolie Matta
City of Riverside, Reginald Agunwah
City of Riverside (RPU), Drew Faherty
City of Riverside (RPU), Farid Ishak Boushaki
Eastern Municipal WD, Doug Edwards
Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Jesus Gastelum
Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Lenai Hunter
Inland Empire Utilities Agency, John Russ
Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Lucia Diaz

Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Pietro Cambiaso
Jurupa Community Services District, Jesse Pompa
Jurupa Community Services District, Scott Lynch
Orange County Water District, Kevin O'Toole
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Adekunle Ojo
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Greg Woodside
SBMWD/RIX/JPA, Jennifer Shepardson
WMWD/WRCRWA, Jennifer McMullin
WMWD/WRCRWA, Lyndy Lewis
WMWD/WRCRWA, Mallory O'Conor
YVWD, Ashley Gibson
YVWD, Jennifer Ares
YVWD, John Wrobel
YVWD, Micah Knox

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dudek, Steve Stuart
Kahn, Soares, & Conway (KSC), Theresa (Tess) Dunham
Rincon Consultants, Rosalyn Prickett
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Bruce Whitiker
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Gil Botello
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Haley Gohari
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Ian Achimore
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Jasmin Hall
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Natalia Gonzalez
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Rachel Gray

Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Rick Whetsel
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, T. Milford Harrison
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Adriana Godinez
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Eric Lindberg
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Hossein Shahrokhnia
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Keith Person
WSC, Michael Cruikshank
West Yost, Samantha Adams
West Yost, Sodavy Ou

STAKEHOLDERS ABSENT:

Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
City of Banning
City of Corona
City of Rialto

Irvine Ranch Water District
San Geronio Pass Water Agency
Temescal Valley Water District

Call to Order/Introductions

The Basin Monitoring Program Task Force meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Ian Achimore at SAWPA with participants participating remotely and in person. Brief introductions were made.

Approval of September 2024 Meeting Notes

The September 30, 2024 meeting notes were approved as posted.

Task Force Member Spotlight: Geochemical Analysis of Recharge in Bunker Hills – Drew Faherty, RPU

Drew Faherty, of Riverside Public Utilities (RPU), provided a PowerPoint Presentation to share the Geochemical Analysis of Groundwater Recharge in Bunker Hill that his agency is leading. Mr. Faherty mentioned the project is not explicitly related to water quality and salt nutrient management plans but can help inform the upcoming Task Force's Reach 3 Special Study. The RPU study was designed to help inform his agency's decision makers on potential investments in active recharge. The goals of the study include identifying primary sources of recharge and groundwater flow paths in the western half of Bunker Hill groundwater basin. Secondly, mapping and constraining fault structures and influence on ground water flow were analyzed. Lastly, informing investments in active recharge and reducing risk for future well sitings are apart of the study.

The focus on this study is on Waterman and East Twin Creek drainages, which are being considered as part of the “PERC” Project. The drainages appear to be promising locations for recharge and would benefit the pressure zone. Primary sources of recharge, according to the early data provided, include a natural source from the San Bernadino Mountains (represented by East Twin Creek), meteoric or mountain spring water, and a significant component of recharge coming from Waterman Basin.

The remaining question, subject for future work, is to what degree will Santa Ana River, Mill Creek or Seven Oaks surface flows contribute. Next steps include filling in the data gaps, using geophysics (to constrain fault locations and structure), geochemical analysis (along East-West transect of San Bernardino Basin Area), remote sensing (to identify regions of subsidence), and identifying local recharge pathways.

Basin Plan Amendment Update – Tess Dunham, KSC

Tess Dunham, of Kahn, Soares, and Conway, LLP (KSC), provided a verbal update on Chapters 4 and 5 of the Basin Plan Amendment. Ms. Dunham plans to get a revised update sent out to the Task Force soon.

Potential Data Gaps Framework Reminder – Ian Achimore, SAWPA

Ian Achimore, of SAWPA, provided a reminder to the Task Force of the Potential Data Gaps Framework email that was distributed on September 30th, 2024. Linked within the email includes the detailed 2023 Data Gap Framework along with table 4-1 which shows number of potential data gaps in each GMZ along with the “Dischargers/Agencies Designated to Resolve” them. Included in table 4-1 are various footnotes that highlight important nuances. As a reminder to Task Force, there is a 3-step process in the 2023 Data Gap Framework for “high priority” GMZs to follow by December 31st, 2025.

Reach 3 TDS Special Study Review and Approval – Ian Achimore, SAWPA

Mr. Achimore provided a verbal update on the Santa Ana River Reach 3 TDS Special Study request for proposals (RFP). The Scoping Committee of the Task Force has been working on the document for the past 10 months. Mr. Achimore explained the RFP is a procurement document which includes a scope where consultants can respond with their budgets.

Ms. Dunham provided a background on the Reach 3 Special Study. It was indicated as a priority to understand why there are fluctuating TDS concentrations during base flow conditions at the downstream terminus of Santa Ana River Reach 3. In conversations with the Santa Ana Regional Water Board, there has been an agreement to perform this special study to better understand what the TDS sources may be. Work has been done in the past to determine if the impact was related to a decrease in Publicly Owned Treatment Works recycled water in the Santa Ana River. However, the special study will need to be conducted to get a current understanding and obtain more data on what may be causing the fluctuation of TDS. The next State Water Board Integrated Report that will focus on the Santa Ana Basin will be the 2030 edition. The State will start collecting data and information, for the 2030 Integrated Report, most likely in 2026.

Budget Process Update – Ian Achimore, SAWPA

Mr. Achimore provided a verbal update regarding the Task Force’s budget process. The Task Force will be entering the next two-year budget cycle for Fiscal Years Ending 2026 and 2027. Mr. Achimore noted the Task Force will be adopting a budget for this cycle during the upcoming December 2024 Task Force meeting. A spreadsheet with the two-year budget will be provided to the 20 members of the Task Force. Included in the budget will be the estimated costs for various Task Force activities, including the Reach 3 Special Study along with the annual monitoring conducted by consultant CWE for reaches 4 and 5 of the Santa Ana River. Task Force members will be receiving the spreadsheet within the coming weeks.

A brief intermission was then held for the next special Regional Board item:

Scoping Meeting Related to a Basin Plan Amendment for Updating the Chino Basin Maximum Benefit Salt & Nutrient Management Plan – Keith Person, Regional Board

Keith Person, of the Regional Board provided a PowerPoint Presentation to present the California Environmental Quality Act Scoping Meeting for the proposed Chino Basin Plan Amendment. The scoping meeting is being held pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 21083.9 which requires a Substitute Environmental Document (SED) to be created whenever there is a proposed project pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.5.

Mr. Person's presentation outlined the following,

- Groundwater Management Zone (GMZ) Background
- Salt and Nutrient Management Plan for the Chino Basin GMZ
- Basin Plan Amendment Project Description
- Problem Statements
- Technical Demonstrations
- Existing Maximum Benefit Commitments
- Consistency with Polices
- Substitute Environmental Document
- Basin Plan Amendment Schedule/Next Steps

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 09:55 a.m.