

MEETING NOTES

Middle Santa Ana River TMDL Task Force

September 4, 2024

PARTICIPANTS

Abigail Suter, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD

Aldo Licitra, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD

Amanda Grey, UC Riverside

Anthony Ortega, City of Pomona

Azarely Bedolla

Betsy Hunter-Binns, Chino Basin Watermaster, Agricultural Pool

Chris Bland, SBCFCD

Cordell Chavez, City of Corona

Cynthia Gabaldon, County of San Bernardino

Hero Alexander, Regional Water Quality Control Board

Jared Ervin, Geosyntec

John Wingett, City of Jurupa Valley

Kimberly Colbert, Colbert Environmental Group

Lauren Briggs, Regional Water Quality Control Board

Matt Romero

Menu Leddy, Essential Env. & Eng. Systems

Michael Drennan, NV5

Mike Roberts, City of Riverside

Nisha Wells, City of Chino Hills

Pat Boldt, Milk Producers Council

Rachael Johnson, Riverside County Farm Bureau

Ray Hiemstra, Inland Empire Waterkeeper

Rebekah Guill, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD

Richard Boon, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD

Richard Meyerhoff, GEI Consultants

Robert Eland, City of Riverside

Steven Wolosoff, CDM Smith

Stormy Osifeso, City of Riverside

Terri Reeder, Regional Water Quality Control Board

Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP

Bruce Whitaker, SAWPA

T. Milford Harrison, SAWPA

Gil Botello, SAWPA

Rachel Gray, SAWPA

Rick Whetsel, SAWPA

1. Call to Order & Introductions

The MSAR TMDL Task Force Meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Rick Whetsel at SAWPA with all participants participating remotely.

2. Approval of Meeting Notes from the June 25, 2024 MSAR Task Force Meeting

The June 25, 2024 meeting notes were approved as posted.

3. Update: Limited MSAR Basin Plan Amendment (Tess Dunham /KSC and Richard Meyerhoff & Steven Wolosoff/GEI)

Tess Dunham introduced Richard Meyerhoff to present an update to stakeholders on the limited Basin Plan amendment proposed for the MSAR TMDLs. Richard's presentation included discussion on the following:

- Proposed Revisions to the MSAR TMDLs
 - Extend Wet Winter Condition compliance date 20 years – from December 31, 2025 to December 31, 2045
 - Incorporate Phase 2 Implementation Plan to replace the completed Phase 1 Implementation Plan (existing TMDL implementation plan)
 - Clarify applicability of Basin Plan High Flow Suspension provision to MSAR TMDLs
 - Clarify applicability of REC1 use to Cucamonga Creek
- Status of the TMDL Technical Report
- Justification for the proposed 20 year extension
- Summary of key comments by Regional Board Staff on the Draft Technical Report
- Phase 2 Implementation Tasks
 - Current version
 - Planned revisions based on comments by Regional Board staff
- Next Steps & Schedule

Tess Dunham informed the Task Force that the TMDL Technical Report is just one of the documents to be prepared. Tess and GEI will also be working to prepare updated Basin Plan Amendment language and a Substitute Environmental Document to accompany the TMDL Technical Report.

Terri Reeder, Regional Water Quality Control Board stated that she has been informed by her Legal Counsel unlike past amendments to the Basin Plan, the TMDL Technical Report will actually be an appendix to the Substitute Environmental Document. Tess acknowledged this change and will work to restructure the documents as needed.

Ray Hiemstra, Inland Empire Waterkeeper noted some of his concerns regarding a 20 year extension and the need to implement projects to improve opportunities for water recreation. He requested, as what was presented today was a high level overview, an opportunity to meet with Tess and GEI to get a better understanding of the details of what is being proposed in the revised Basin Plan Amendment.

Moving forward, the plan is to provide a draft of the Revised Technical Report with Appendices for review by stakeholders in preparation of the next TMDL Task Force meeting to be scheduled in October 2024.

A copy of Richard's presentation is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: https://sawpa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/MSAR-Task-Force-BPA_090424_Rev.pdf.

4. Status Update: Bacteria Reduction Implementation Activities

a) RCFC&WCD

Abigail Suter reported to the Task Force that the District is continuing coordination with Jurupa Community Services District (JCSD) and Western Municipal Water District (WMWD) on the feasibility of low flow diversion projects.

The District is also continuing work with the City of Riverside to finalize the 30% design plans for the Magnolia Center Storm Drain project. The project is intended to help improve water quality by diverting the Magnolia Center Storm Drain to the City's Regional Water Quality Control Plant.

Richard Boon added that efforts with JCSD and WMWD to investigate the feasibility of low flow diversion projects have stalled somewhat due to issues with treatment plants concerns regarding high TDS in dry weather flows.

He also noted the potential of conflicting goals between agencies working within the Santa Ana River and its tributaries. Whereas, the MS4 permittees have been investigating opportunities to reduce or eliminate dry weather flows to the Santa Ana River, other watershed agencies are seeking to sustain flows to protect and create habitat for threatened species, such as the Santa Ana Sucker.

Terri Reeder, Regional Water Quality Control Board stated that protecting habitat for threatened species is an interest of Regional board and will need to be considered as part of the strategies of the Task Force moving forward.

b) SBCFCD

Chris Bland reported to the Task Force on monitoring being conducted to support the District's Comprehensive Bacteria Reduction Plan. These include the six week study on the San Antonio Channel and 10 week study on Cucamonga Creek.

c) Orange County

No update.

d) City of Claremont

No update.

- e) City of Pomona
No update.
- f) Agricultural Operators
Pat Boldt reported that Santa Ana Regional Board has not yet released its draft of the Combined Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) and non-dairy CAFO permit and is not expected to do so until early 2025. A reason for this delay is that the Santa Ana Regional Board is waiting on the General Order on Dairy that is expected to be released by the State Water Resources Control Board in the near future.

Tess then noted that this General Order on Dairy stems from a petition on the Central Valley's 2013 Dairy Order for existing milk cow dairies, and that portions of that order will apply as a precedential order to the Santa Ana Regional Board's Dairy Order.

5. TMDL Task Force Administration (SAWPA Staff)

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

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

Following brief discussion, a motion was put forward and moved by the Task Force to direct SAWPA staff to extend Agreement for Services with Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway to serve as Regulatory Compliance Expert for the Middle Santa Ana River TMDL Task Force for two additional years for FYEs 2026 and 2027.

6. Other Business

Terri Reeder, Regional Water Quality Control Board introduced Hero Alexander with the MS4 Permitting Section, who has been asked to participate in the Task Force meetings to help keep the Permitting Section informed on the efforts of the Task Force on issues relating to regulatory compliance.

7. Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting is proposed as a MSAR TMDL Task Force meeting and is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business for review, the meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.