

## Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force

September 30, 2024

### **PARTICIPANTS PRESENT:**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Abigail Suter, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD      | Nicholas Jernack, WSP USA                                |
| Adam Gufarotti, City of Lake Elsinore                    | Pat Boldt, WRCAC   |
| Aldo Licitra, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD       | Rachael Johnson, Riverside County Farm Bureau            |
| Alison Trollier, Eco Oxygen Tech/MISCO                   | Rae Beimer, City of Moreno Valley                        |
| Ben Foster, City of Lake Elsinore                        | Ray Hiemstra, Inland Empire Waterkeeper                  |
| Brian Rhoades, Eco Oxygen Tech/MISCO                     | Richard Boon, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD       |
| Chris Stransky, GEI Consultants                          | Richard Meyerhoff, GEI Consultants                       |
| Cynthia Gabaldon, City of Menifee, Perris, and March JPA | Ryan Kearns, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD        |
| Dan Cortese, City of Hemet                               | Shirley Colvin, City of Perris                           |
| Garth Engelhorn, NV5                                     | Steven Wolosoff, GEI Consultants                         |
| Hannah Kranz, WSP USA                                    | Stormy Osifeso, City of Riverside                        |
| Jim Klang, WRCAC   | Sudhir Mohleji, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District |
| John Rudolph, GEI Consultants                            | Terri Reeder, Regional Water Quality Control Board       |
| Kris Hanson, City of Wildomar (Interwest)                | Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP                  |
| Lauren Briggs, Regional Water Quality Control Board      | Bruce Whitaker, SAWPA                                    |
| Lauren Sotelo, March JPA                                 | T Milford Harrison, SAWPA                                |
| Lynn Merrill, City of San Jacinto                        | Gil Botello, SAWPA                                       |
| Mayra Martinez   | Jeff Mosher, SAWPA                                       |
| Michael Roberts, City of Riverside                       | Rick Whetsel, SAWPA                                      |

### **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 most participants participating remotely.

### **Approval of Meeting Notes from August 27, 2024 Task Force Meeting**

The August 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 the Regional Board Hearing on the LE&CL TMDL updates scheduled for December 13, 2024 has been canceled, due to a conflict with the Regional Board hybrid meeting policy.

Regional Board is planning to reschedule the Board Hearing for late January or early February, and with that the start of the 45 day public comment period will also be pushed back.

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

Tess Dunham, KSC informed stakeholders that all of the TMDL documents have been submitted to Regional Board staff in preparation of the start of the public review period, and the upcoming Board Hearing.

### **Presentation: 2023-24 Annual Water Quality Monitoring Review (Chris Stransky, John Rudolph, GEI Consultants and Garth Engelhorn, NV5)**

Chris Stransky and John Rudolph, GEI Consultants and Garth Engelhorn from NV5 teamed up to provide a presentation on the results of 2023-2024 Annual LE&CL TMDLs compliance monitoring program. Chris first introduced Garth to provide a review of the San Jacinto watershed wide flow and water quality monitoring and then introduced John to provide a review of Canyon Lake and Lake Elsinore in-lake monitoring.

Note, Chris Stransky and John Rudolph, recently moved on from WSP and are now working for GEI Consultants. To maintain continuity on the TMDL compliance monitoring program, WSP agreed to sub-contract with GEI Consultants to bring Chris Stransky and John Rudolph on as senior advisors on the program monitoring, and reporting.

Nicholas Jernack and Hanna Kranz, WSP are now serving as project leads and are currently working to address stakeholder comments in coordination with Chris and John.

It was noted that Regional Board have not yet submitted comments on the annual report. LESJWA staff was requested to send out a reminder to extend the comment deadline to close of business, Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> and for stakeholders to notify the consultant team if additional time is needed to review and prepare comments on the 2023-24 annual monitoring report.

A copy of this presentation is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials:

**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.

An update on the work of the consulting team follows:

- Completed the preparation of project engineering concepts and cost estimates for each of the various project options.
- Received lab results for the sediment core study and are currently working with doctors Alex Horne and Michael Anderson on the calculation of the nutrient load reduction expected from each of the various project options.
- Submitted a draft conditions assessment of the existing Lake Elsinore Aeration and Mixing System (LEAMS), and are working to address comments from District staff.
- Prepared a draft set of project evaluation criteria and rubric for how the various project options will be scored, which is currently under review by District staff. Upon completion of review by the District the draft project evaluation criteria and scoring rubric will be distributed to Task Force stakeholders for review and comment.
- A draft of the Project Report is underway and is on schedule to be submitted to the District for review and comment in October. Upon completion of review by the District the draft Project Report will be distributed for review by the Task Force and discussion at the November TMDL Task Force meeting.
- It is expected that the final Project Report will be released in early 2025.

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

**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.

This included an update on Lake Elsinore water quality following a small fish die-off thought to be caused by recent wildfires in the region dropping significant amounts of ash on the lake surface. The City is currently tracking dissolved oxygen (DO) levels in the Lake. Recent data shows the Lake DO levels to be returning to normal pre-fire levels.

With respect to the City Nanobubble Pilot Project, the City is moving forward with the installation of 2 additional nanobubble barges in the Lake to provide an additional 5,000 lbs of DO to the Lake. The City is working on a schedule to complete the installation of the barges to carry the Nanobubble systems in the next few weeks.

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 informed the Task Force that the upcoming Fall 2024 Canyon Lake alum application scheduled for the week of September 30th has been postponed.

The recommendation for postponing the Canyon Lake alum application is due to elevated pH levels at the lake surface detected as part of the September 23rd pre-alum WQ monitoring, which could lend to the possibility of an algal bloom occurring in Canyon Lake. These are in-lake conditions very similar to what were experienced prior to the April 22-24 alum application, under which a minor algal bloom and fish die-off occurred.

The alum application has been rescheduled for the week of Monday October 14th. Moving forward, additional pre-alum WQ sampling will be conducted on Wednesday, October 9th and based upon the results a recommendation of how to proceed with the alum application will be determined.

Due to the benefits derived from applying alum to Canyon Lake prior to the lake turning over, it has been suggested that if the current high surface pH levels persist, the alum be applied sub-surface, where the pH levels are much more favorable for the alum application.

#### **Task Force Administration (LESJWA Staff)**

Rick Whetsel informed the Task Force that in preparation of the next meeting LESJWA staff will prepare and distribute a draft FY 2025-26 budget for review and discussion by stakeholders at the November task Force meeting.

#### **Other Business**

A question was raised regarding if there is an Operations Plan for Canyon Lake, with respect to how it is operated as a drinking water reservoir, and if this plan considers impacts to in-lake water quality.

It was suggested that the Task Force evaluate the need for additional water quality monitoring to estimate the impacts of the recent wildfires. This should include a scope and estimate for the additional monitoring.

LESJWA staff will follow-up on this items and report back to the Task Force at future meetings.

#### **Schedule Next Meeting**

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

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

### Table Summary of Agreements and Actions

| <b>Date of Action/Agreement</b> | <b>Action/Agreement</b>  | <b>Responsible Entities Reaching Agreement</b>   |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| September 28, 2021              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>  | Voting Task Force members.   |
| November 3, 2021                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve moving forward with the proposed step-wise approach to updating the TMDL Technical Report and its timeline.</li> </ul>  | Voting Task Force members  |
| January 10, 2022                | -  | -  |
| March 2, 2022                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Approved the alum application to the Canyon Lake if the February monitoring data exceeds 0.09.</li> </ul>  | Voting Task Force members  |
| April 20, 2022                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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</li> </ul> | 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"> <li>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&amp;CL TMDL Task Force.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>   | 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"> <li>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.</li> <li>Exercise an option for a two year extension with WSP USA to oversee and implement TMDL Compliance Monitoring. Program.</li> </ul>  | Voting Task Force members  |
| January 10, 2023                | -  | -  |
| February 15, 2023               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>   | Voting Task Force members.   |
| March 28, 2023                  | -  | -  |
| April 25, 2023                  | -  | -  |
| June 5, 2023                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>   | 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"> <li>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&amp;CL TMDL Task Force reserve.</li> </ul>   | Voting Task Force members. |
| August 27 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Task Force approved LESJWA staff to extend Agreement for Services with Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares &amp; 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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul> | Voting Task Force members. |