

MEETING NOTES

Joint Regional Water Quality Monitoring/Middle Santa Ana River TMDL Task Force

October 16, 2024

PARTICIPANTS

Abigail Gomez, City of Jurupa Valley	Lauren Briggs, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Abigail Suter, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD	Mike Roberts, City of Riverside
Aldo Licitra, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD	Nicole Greenwood, City of Riverside
Allison Mackenzie, Babcock Laboratories, Inc.	Pat Boldt, Milk Producers Council
Anthony Ortega, City of Pomona	Ray Hiemstra, Inland Empire Waterkeeper
Betsy Hunter-Binns, Chino Basin Watermaster, Agricultural Pool	Richard Boon, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Brielle Hamm	Richard Meyerhoff, GEI Consultants
Chris Bland, SBCFCD	Ryan Kearns, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Cordell Chavez, City of Corona	Steven Wolosoff, CDM Smith
Cynthia Gabaldon, County of San Bernardino	Stormy Osifeso, City of Riverside
Estefania Solorio, City of Riverside	Terri Reeder, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Hero Alexander, Regional Water Quality Control Board	Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP
James Fortuna, County of Orange	T. Milford Harrison, SAWPA
Jared Ervin, Geosyntec	Gil Botello, SAWPA
Jagroop Khela, Regional Water Quality Control Board	Rachel Gray, SAWPA
Kevin Dunn, County of Orange	Rick Whetsel, SAWPA
Kimberly Colbert, Colbert Environmental Group	Zyanya Ramirez, SAWPA

1. Call to Order & Introductions

The MSAR TMDL Task Force Meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Rick Whetsel at SAWPA with all participants participating remotely.

2. Approval of Meeting Notes from the September 4, 2024 MSAR Task Force Meeting

The September 4, 2024 meeting notes were approved as posted.

Regional Water Quality Monitoring Meeting Items:

1. Update: 2024-25 Santa Ana River Regional Bacteria Monitoring Program (Steven Wolosoff GEI Consultants)

Steven Wolosoff, GEI Consultants provided a presentation to update on the status of the 2024-25 Santa Ana River Regional Bacteria Monitoring. This included an overview of the sampling program, web dashboard, 2024 dry season results, and general trends.

Next steps include the cool season monitoring, single storm event (as a requirement of the MSAR TMDLs) between now and March, data QA/QC, data management, and preparation of the draft annual report due in April 2024.

A copy of GEI's presentation is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: <https://sawpa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/RBMP-Task-Force-Presentation-October-2024.pdf>.

2. RWQM Task Force Administration (SAWPA Staff)

• Discussion: Draft FY 2025-26 Budget

Rick Whetsel presented a draft FY 2025-26 RWQM Task Force budget for review and discussion with stakeholders.

This draft FY 2025-26 Task Force budget included the following:

- Administration costs remain at \$30,000, the same as previous years.
- SAR Regional Bacteria Monitoring Program costs are estimated at \$400,000 based upon the approved consultant agreement/budget.
- No Regulatory Compliance Experts costs were included in the budget, it is anticipated that Tess Dunham will be available to the RWQM Task Force on questions relating to the SAR Regional Bacteria Monitoring Program through her existing agreement with the Middle Santa Ana River TMDL Task Force.
- Item for your attention: Included in this draft budget is a contingency of \$50,000 as a placeholder for additional work to be completed by the Task Force with respect to changes to the monitoring program (evaluation or addition of new monitoring locations).
 - This budget item is currently setup as equal share contributions for each of the County stakeholders (\$16,667 ea).
- The current task Force reserve is estimated at \$42,220 and is divided among the contributing parties at (\$10,555 ea.).

Following today's meeting SAWPA staff will re-distribute this draft budget to the Task Force for review and approval via email.

MSAR TMDL Meeting Items:

1. 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
- Planned Revisions to the Phase 2 Implementation Plan
 - Phase 2 Implementation Program Task List
 - Phase 2 Implementation Program Task Schedule
- Phase 2 Implementation Plan Tasks to be implemented within 6 months of the effective date of these TMDLs

Next Steps & Schedule

- The consultant team is continuing to coordinate with Regional Board staff to revise Technical Report to address previous comments and incorporate new Appendix A (20-year justification).
- The consultant team is targeting November 11th to send out Revised Draft Technical Report to the Task Force for review.

A copy of Richard's presentation is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: https://sawpa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/MSAR-Task-Force-BPA_101524.pdf.

2. Action Item: Task Force Proposal for additional funding to support revisions to the MSAR Bacterial Indicator TMDLs (Richard Meyerhoff & Steven Wolosoff/GEI)

Richard Meyerhoff, GEI Consultants presented on a proposal requesting to amend the original 2022 agreement for services to provide regulatory and technical support to the MSAR in preparation of limited

revisions to the MSAR Bacterial Indicator TMDLs for additional funds to: (a) complete remaining project deliverables; (b) support continued participation in Task Force meetings during the development and review of these deliverables; and (c) provide additional technical support to the MSAR Task Force during Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Following Richard's presentation, Rick Whetsel, SAWPA excused GEI from the meeting and presented a recommendation for consideration by the Task Force to direct SAWPA staff to amend the existing Agreement for Services with GEI Consultants to provide additional funding of \$86,530 to: (a) complete remaining project deliverables; (b) support continued participation in Task Force meetings during the development and review of these deliverables; and (c) provide additional technical support to the MSAR Task Force during Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

A question was raised of how this additional work would be funded? Rick Whetsel responded that there is approximately \$260,213 available in the Task Force account that could be used to fund the additional work and that no additional funds would need to be collected from Task Force stakeholders.

Following brief discussion, a motion was put forward by Pat Boldt representing Milk Producers Council to approve the recommendation contingent upon the consulting team first successfully resolving Regional Board's comments regarding the 20 year implementation schedule prior to expending resources on other tasks related to the amendment of the MSAR TMDLs. This motion was seconded by Kimberly Colbert, Colbert Environmental Group representing the City of Claremont and was unanimously approved by the Task Force.

A copy of Richard's presentation is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: https://sawpa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/MSAR-Task-Force_Contract-Amendment_101524.pdf.

3. Status Update: Bacteria Reduction Implementation Activities

This item was tabled due to time.

4. TMDL Task Force Administration (SAWPA Staff)

• Discussion: Draft FY 2025-26 Budget

Rick Whetsel presented a draft FY 2025-26 MSAR TMDL Task Force budget for review and discussion with stakeholders.

This draft FY 2025-26 Task Force budget included the following:

- Administration costs remain at \$37,500, based upon expected bi-monthly as we work to finalize the revisions to the TMDLs.
- TMDL Compliance Expert costs are estimated at \$71,700.
- SAR Regional Bacteria Monitoring Program costs are estimated at \$118,000 based upon the Approved consultant budget.
- Item for your attention: Included in this draft budget is an additional \$100,000 to support work to be performed by the Task Force including additional studies and or source evaluation monitoring to support TMDLs update.
 - This budget item is an equal share contribution for each stakeholder (\$5,263 ea.).
- The balance of available Task Force funds estimated, based upon the approval of the GEI Task Order for \$86,530 at the Oct. 16th Task Force Meeting is \$173,683.

Following today's meeting SAWPA staff will re-distribute this draft budget to the Task Force for review and approval via email.

5. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

6. Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting is proposed as an MSAR TMDL Task Force meeting and is scheduled for Monday, December 9, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business for review, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

DRAFT