

Emerging Constituents Program Task Force December 16, 2024

ATTENDEES:

Babcock Laboratories, Allison Mackenzie
City of Rialto, Toyasha Sebbag
City of Riverside, Alex Kim
City of Riverside, Ana Naranjo
EMWD, Doug Edwards
Eurofins, Katie Beall
EVMWD, Mike Ali
EVMWD, Sudhir Mohleji
EVWMD, Lenai Hunter
Haley Aldrich, Sarah Mass
IEUA, Pietro Cambiaso
IEUA, Sushmitha Reddy
IRWD, Jim Colston
JCSD, Bryan Smith
JPW Communications, Leslie Spring
Kahn, Soares, & Conway, (KSC), Theresa (Tess) Dunham
MWD of Southern California, Theresa Slifko
OCWD, Jason Dadakis
OCWD, Patrick Versluis
Riverside Public Utilities, Drew Faherty

Riverside Public Utilities, Farid Ishak Boushaki
Riverside Public Utilities, Robin Glenney
SAWPA, Bruce Whitaker
SAWPA, Emily Fuentes
SAWPA/SBVMWD, Gil Botello
SAWPA, Ian Achimore
SAWPA/IEUA, Jasmin Hall
SAWPA, Natalia Gonzalez
SAWPA, Rachel Gray
SAWPA, Rick Whetsel
SAWPA, Shavonne Turner
SAWPA/SBVMWD, T. Milford Harrison
SBMWD/RIX JPA, Marissa Flores-Acosta
SBVMWD, Adekunle Ojo
SWRCB, Wendy Linck
WMWD, Lyndy Lewis
WMWD, Nydia Doolittle
WSC, Jessica Chomyn
West Yost, Lucy Hedley
YLWD, Rosanne Weston

Call to Order

The Emerging Constituents Program Task Force meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. by Ian Achimore at SAWPA with participants participating remotely.

Approval of August 12, 2024 Meeting Notes

The August 12, 2024 meeting notes were approved as posted.

Nationwide Study on Rainwater and PFAS – Sarah Mass, Haley Aldrich

Sarah Mass, Senior Technical Specialist at Haley Aldrich provided a PowerPoint presentation titled [*It's raining PFAS: A nationwide study of PFAS in rain*](#). The self-funded study, conducted in collaboration with Eurofins Sacramento, involved collecting rain samples at six locations across the U.S. — Colorado, California, New Hampshire, Michigan, Texas, and Washington State. Samples were collected at each site, using high-density polyethylene trays to capture rainwater, and were analyzed for 72 PFAS compounds using the Eurofins expanded analyte list. The study found that around 66% of the samples had detectable levels of PFAS, a higher detection rate than in previous studies, which typically reported around 30%. All samples in Michigan, New Hampshire, and Texas showed detectable PFAS. In contrast, California and Colorado had lower detection rates. Washington had no detections. Around 18% of samples contained compounds with federal Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), such as PFOA and PFOS.

Ms. Mass highlighted the importance of using the expanded 72 analyte list. Using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) 1633 standard method would have significantly underreported PFAS concentrations. The study suggests more research is needed to understand the sources and distribution of Perfluoropropanoic acid (PFPrA), as it was commonly found in various studies, including bottled water and drinking water sources.

The next steps include publishing a full manuscript with the collected data along with further investigation into the non-1633 PFAS compounds.

Regulatory Report and Updates – Tess Dunham, KSC

Tess Dunham, of KSC, provided regulatory reports and updates. The update focused on the new primary MCL for hexavalent chromium, which took effect on October 1, 2024. The Task Force was reminded of the compliance deadlines, which are set for the following:

- October 1, 2026 for systems equal or greater than 10,000 connections.
- October 1, 2027 for systems with 1,000 - 9,999 connections
- October 1, 2028 for systems less than 1,000 connections.

Ms. Dunham also discussed N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), as the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) put forward a draft Public Health Goal lowering the limit from 3 parts per trillion (ppt) to 0.5 ppt, which is significantly lower than the existing Public Health Goal. The public comment period is open until January 20, 2024, with a public workshop to be held on January 24, 2024. The State Water Board is also working on setting protentional regulatory MCLs for NDMA, PFAS, and PFOA, although no specific timeline has been set. There is some speculation about changes to federal MCLs due to the change in leadership at US EPA per the new administration.

Overall, the discussion focused on staying updated with regulatory changes and considering the potential need for updated data collection strategies.

EC Task Force Outreach Efforts: Report and Look Ahead from PR Consultant – Leslie Spring, JPW Communications

Leslie Spring, Senior Director at JPW Communications, presented an overview of SoCal Tap Water's content strategy and performance. Key objectives for the year included integrating partner content, refining the brand's visual identity, and boosting posts to increase reach, which has shown positive results. The annual review revealed significant improvements in website traffic, time spent on the site, and engagement across social media platforms, with water quality content performing best. Challenges included a decrease in Facebook reach due to reduced posting frequency, but Instagram continued to perform well. Looking ahead, JPW plans to work on various topics related to task force members, including promoting Eastern Municipal Water District's podcast and producing videos about Orange County Water District and the Inland Empire Brine Line. Additionally, boosted posts, targeting both new audiences and followers, have been successful with a modest budget. Ms. Spring concluded with a request from task force members to review the Inland Empire Brine Line video script before final production.

EC Task Force Budget for Friscal Years Ending 2026 and 2027 – Ian Achimore, SAWPA

Mr. Achimore presented the EC Task Force budget for FYE 2026 and FYE 2027, providing both a PowerPoint presentation and spreadsheet for review. The purpose of the presentation was to remind task force members of current and past budgets, allowing them to provide feedback and approval for the draft two-year budget. Task Force budgets are typically adopted by December before the start of the next two fiscal year cycle. Mr. Achimore reviewed the current and past budgets and provided a brief history of the task force's efforts. Expenses in the current budget are categorized and split evenly among task force members, with a focus on keeping SAWPA staff time efficient to ensure resources are managed effectively. Task force members were asked to review the budget and provide feedback, particularly regarding the budget category – "special activities".

Next steps will include additional follow-up emails for comments and questions. The approval is anticipated to be by mid-January 2025, with the budget expected to be finalized shortly thereafter.

Future Speakers Ideas? – Ian Achimore, SAWPA

If there are any topics or suggestions for presentations to the Emerging Constituents Program Task Force, please feel free to contact Ian Achimore or SAWPA Staff to share your thoughts and requests.

Schedule Future Meeting via Doodle – Ian Achimore, SAWPA

The next Emerging Constituents Program Task Force will be scheduled via doodle poll and will be distributed to the Task Force members by email at a later date.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

DRAFT