

MEETING NOTES

Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force

November 12, 2024

PARTICIPANTS PRESENT:

Abigail Suter, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD	Michael Roberts, City of Riverside
Adam Gufarotti, City of Lake Elsinore	Natasha Thandi, Caltrans (MBI)
Ann Marie Loconte, City of Banning	Nicholas Jernack, WSP USA
Ben Foster, City of Lake Elsinore	Pat Boldt, WRCAC
Chris Stransky, GEI Consultants	Rae Beimer, City of Moreno Valley
Carlos Norvani, City of Lake Elsinore	Rebekah Guill, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Cynthia Gabaldon, City of Menifee, Perris, and March JPA	Richard Boon, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Dan Cortese, City of Hemet	Richard Meyerhoff, GEI Consultants
Hannah Kranz, WSP USA	Ryan Kearns, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Hunter Raskin, Willdan	Shirley Colvin, City of Perris
Jilleen Ferris, City of Hemet	Steven Wolosoff, GEI Consultants
Jim Klang, WRCAC	Stormy Osifeso, City of Riverside
John Rudolph, GEI Consultants	Sudhir Mohleji, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Kelcey Chung, 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	T Milford Harrison, SAWPA
Lauren Sotelo, March JPA	Jasmine Hall, SAWPA
Lynn Merrill, City of San Jacinto	Rick Whetsel, SAWPA
Mayra Martinez	Zyanya Ramirez, 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 September 30, 2024 Task Force Meeting

The September 30, 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 has been scheduled for February 14, 2025.

Regional Board staff is currently to submit the draft documents for Public Comments shortly. The goal is to post the documents by this Friday, or early next week as Regional Board Legal Counsel is working through to address some comments for clarification. Based upon this start date the 45 day Public Comment period is scheduled to end on or around December 31, 2024.

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

Tess Dunham, KSC reminded 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.

She then touched on some of the early work that will need to be addressed by the Task Force in relation to the updated TMDL Implementation Plan. This included discussion regarding Task 9, a study to define and identify minor sources and identify responsibility levels for TMDL Implementation for such sources, which was identified as a high priority of Regional Board and the Task Force to complete in the upcoming year.

Pat Boldt WRCAC stated that WRCAC has already been working on this item as it applies to Agricultural operators.

Tess Dunham stated that she will work with GEI consultants and LESJWA staff to prepare a draft scope for discussion and consideration at the next Task Force meeting.

Other early tasks that need to be considered by the Task Force include:

- Task 4 - Review and re-authorize existing In-lake Project(s) for Canyon Lake, and/or approve new In-Lake Project(s)
- Task 18 - Update existing Surveillance & Monitoring Program for these TMDLs

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.

Today's meeting included a review of the project evaluation criteria and weights:

- Cost (30%)
- Reliability (20%)
- Ease of Construction & O&M(10%)
- Regulatory Compliance / Environmental Impacts (25%)
- Other Constraints (10%)
- Other Benefits: 5%

The Draft report of study underway and it anticipated to be submitted to EVMWD for review in November. Following initial review by EVMWD the draft report will be shared with the LEAMS operators and LE&CL TMDL Task Force for comment. A Final report in expected to be completed in February 2025.

Steven requested if Task Force members had any additional comments on the project evaluation criteria and weights to submit them to him by email before the end of the week.

A copy of the presentation prepared by Steve Wolosoff is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: <https://sawpa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Lake-Elsinore-In-Lake-Options-Study-update-to-LECL-Task-Force-111224.pdf>

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.

With respect to the City Nanobubble Pilot Project, Moleaer is working to finalize lake bottom hardness mapping for the entire lake. Once the mapping is completed, Adam will share the results with the Task Force.

On October 17th, the City activated 2 additional Nanobubble barges in the Lake. These Nanobubble units are expected to provide an additional 5,500 lbs of oxygen to the Lake.

EVMWD staff requested that the City of Lake Elsinore provide the GPS map locations for each of the 3 Nanobubbler barges and the dates that the Nanobubbles were activated. EVMWD also requested the buoy data being collected by Moleaer at each of the Nanobubble barge locations. This information will be used to support the annual nutrient offset calculations prepared by EVMWD. Adam stated that this will not be a problem.

Adam will continue to provide updates to stakeholders at future Task Force meetings as appropriate.

Task Force Administration (LESJWA Staff)

Rick Whetsel presented the following items for the Task Force to consider:

- A. Staff put forth a recommendation that the Task Force consider holding in-person meetings. It was proposed that that in-person meetings could be held quarterly, with those meetings being coordinated and scheduled for the same week to reduce travel for consultants and that virtual access would be available upon request.

Following discussion it was agreed that instead of scheduling in-person meetings on a regular schedule that instead these meetings would be scheduled based upon the need to discuss key action items that require significant stakeholder input and action.

Staff will coordinate with the consultant team to review the calendar to identify potential in-person meetings for the upcoming year.

- B. Staff put forth a recommendation that the Task Force consider a proposal by Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway requesting to amend the original 2023 agreement for services to provide regulatory facilitator services to the LE&CL TMDL Task Force. This proposal outlines the circumstances leading to the need for an additional \$70,000 to fund work activities to be conducted to support the LE&CL TMDL Task Force for the remaining balance of Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Funding for this Change Order is available in the Task Force reserve account.

Following brief discussion a motion was put forward by Lynn Merrill representing the City of San Jacinto and seconded by Cynthia Gabaldon representing the City of Perris to direct LESJWA staff to approve the Change Order request for \$70,000 by Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway.

MOVED to approve LESJWA staff to amend the existing Agreement for Services with Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway for an additional funding \$70,000 to continue to support the LE&CL TMDL Task Force for the remaining balance of Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

- C. Staff presented a preliminary draft FY 2025-26 Task Force Budget for discussion by the Task Force. This draft budget included the standard budget line items for administration, regulatory compliance support, compliance monitoring, LEAMS offset credits and Canyon Lake alum treatment, as well as place holder budgets for TMDL Implementation Plan tasks anticipated to be addressed in the FY 2025-26 budget cycle.

Following brief discussion it was requested that the consultant team to prepare cost estimates and schedule for TMDL Implementation Plan tasks for review and consideration by the Task Force for the upcoming FY 2025-26 budget.

Other Business

- 1) John Rudolph, GEI Consultants briefly discussed a proposal prepared by GEI Consultants, at the request of the Task Force, to evaluate whether runoff from the recently burned area west of Lake Elsinore due to the recent Airport Fire in September 2024 might have potential impacts to water and sediment quality in the lake.

Following brief discussion, staff requested additional time to review the budget and prioritize tasks with the consultant team prior to bringing this proposal back to the Task Force for consideration for approval by the Task Force.

- 2) Stakeholders requested a status update on the DRAFT Annual Water Quality Monitoring Report July 2023 – June 2024, Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake Nutrient TMDL Task Force. John Rudolph, GEI Consultants reported that WSP and GEI are working to wrap-up work on comments and that the Final report should be available shortly.

Schedule Next Meeting

The next LE/CL TMDL Task Force meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 2024, at 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Table Summary of Agreements and Actions

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