

MEETING NOTES

Middle Santa Ana River TMDL Task Force

March 6, 2025

PARTICIPANTS

Abigail Gomez, City of Jurupa Valley
Abigail Suter, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Aldo Licitra, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Amanda Grey, University of California, Riverside
Anthony Ortega, City of Pomona
Arlene Chun, County of San Bernardino
Ashley, City of Corona
Betsy Hunter-Binns, Chino Basin Watermaster, Agricultural Pool
Chris Bland, County of San Bernardino
Cynthia Gabaldon, County of San Bernardino
Estefania Solorio, City of Riverside
Favian Tong, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Jagroop Khela, Regional Water Quality Control Board
James Fortuna, County of Orange
Jared Ervin, Geosyntec
Jason Pivovarov, WMWD
Kevin O'Toole, OCWD
Kimberly Colbert, Colbert Environmental Group (representing the City of Claremont)
Kris Hanson, City of Eastvale
Lauren Briggs, Regional Water Quality Control Board

Mark Ibekwe, U.S. Dept. Agriculture
Melanie Sotelo, CASC Engineering & Consulting, Inc (representing the City of Rialto)
Menu Leddy, Essential Env. & Eng. Systems
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
Ryan Kearns, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Sarah Chiang, County of Orange
Steven Wolosoff, CDM Smith
Terri Reeder, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP
T. Milford Harrison, SAWPA
Gil Botello, SAWPA
Jasmin Hall, SAWPA

Rachel Gray, SAWPA
Zyanya Ramirez, SAWPA
Rick Whetsel, SAWPA

1. Call to Order & Introductions

The MSAR TMDL Task Force Meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by Rick Whetsel at SAWPA with all participants participating remotely.

2. Approval of Meeting Notes from the January 29, 2025 MSAR Task Force Meeting

The January 29, 2025 meeting notes were approved as posted.

3. Discussion: City and County of San Francisco v. U.S. EPA (Tess Dunham /KSC)

Tess Dunham highlighted a significant U.S. Supreme Court ruling on NPDES Permits, where the City and County of San Francisco challenged to the U.S. Supreme Court regarding the inclusion of receiving water limitation language in Federal permits. This language basically states that an entity cannot cause or contribute to a violation of a water quality standard or to cause or contribute to nuisance conditions in a receiving water. EPA's challenged the inclusion of the receiving water limitation language stating that it is not authorized under the Clean Water Act are for inclusion in a federal NPDES permit.

Tess stated that this language is in virtually every permit issued by the State Water Board and the nine Regional Waterboards, and both in State issued permits, as well as Federal NPDES permits. Therefore, this decision has potential implications for the validity of similar provisions in existing permits, and may also affect the pending Regional MS4 permit before the Santa Ana Waterboard.

Tess will update the Task Force as more comes to light on this decision.

4. **Update: Limited MSAR Basin Plan Amendment** (Tess Dunham /KSC and Steven Wolosoff/GEI)
Tess Dunham updated stakeholders on the status of the Middle Santa Ana Basin Plan Amendment, indicating that the draft technical report is with the Regional Board Legal Counsel for review.
5. **Action Item: Proposal for 2025 Synoptic Study to Support the 2026 Triennial Report** (Steven Wolosoff/GEI)

Lauren Briggs, Santa Ana Water Board informed the Task Force that, they have not yet completed their internal review of the proposal submitted by GEI for the 2025 Synoptic Study to Support the 2026 Triennial Report, and are not ready to discuss comments at today's meeting. However, based on the 2024 US EPA Water Quality Criteria Guidance document, the preliminary conclusion is that the Middle Santa Ana River does not qualify for alternative criteria.

Following brief discussion it was decided to table discussion on the proposal submitted by GEI for the 2025 Synoptic Study to Support the 2026 Triennial Report until the next scheduled MSAR TMDL Task Force meeting.

6. **Status Update: Bacteria Reduction Implementation Activities**
RCFC&WCD

Richard Boon had no updates on bacteria reduction implementation activities to report at this time, as County staff is immersed in the MS4 Permit renewal process.

SBCFCD

Christopher Bland had no updates on bacteria reduction implementation activities to report at this time. County staff is currently conducting core and spot sampling for wet weather and when the weather warms will be preparing to mobilize for their regular annual bacteria sampling.

Orange County

Sarah Chiang reported that County staff is working on fecal coliform source tracking in support of their TSO effort.

City of Claremont

Kimberly Colbert informed the Task Force that Santa Ana Regional Board approved the request from the Cities of Claremont and Pomona for an extension of their draft permit until after the Regional MS4 Permit is approved by Regional Board.

City of Pomona

Anthony Ortega echoed the update from Kimberly Colbert.

Agricultural Operators

Pat Boldt had no updates to report at this time.

7. **TMDL Task Force Administration** (SAWPA Staff)
No Task Force Administration was discussed.

8. **Other Business**
No other Business was discussed.

9. **Schedule Next Meeting**
The next meeting is proposed as a Joint RWQM and MSAR TMDL Task Force meeting and is scheduled for Monday, April 28, 2025, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

10. **Adjourn**
There being no further business for review, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.