

## MEETING NOTES

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

October 9, 2025

### PARTICIPANTS

Abigail Gomez, City of Jurupa Valley  
Abigail Suter, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD  
Ana Montoya-Horn, County of Orange  
Anthony Ortega, City of Pomona  
Betsy Hunter-Binns, Chino Basin Watermaster, Agricultural Pool  
Chris Bland, San Bernardino County Flood Control  
Cynthia Gabaldon, County of San Bernardino  
Favian Tong, Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Henry Pham, City of Ontario  
James Fortuna, OCPW  
Kevin Dunn, OCPW  
Kimberly Colbert, Colbert Environmental Group (representing the City of Claremont)  
Lauren Briggs, Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Menu Leddy, Essential Env. & Eng. Systems  
Nate Pino, City of Ontario  
Nicole Hemmans, City of Rialto

Pat Boldt, Milk Producers Council

Rachael Johnson, Riverside County Farm Bureau  
Raymond Hiemstra, Orange County Coastkeeper  
Rebekah Guill, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD

Rhea Henderson, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD  
Richard Boon, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD  
Ryan Kearns, Riverside County Flood Control & WCD  
Sarah Chiang, OC Public Works  
Steven Wolosoff, CDM Smith  
Stormy Osifeso, City of Riverside  
Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP

Toyasha Sebbag, City of Rialto  
Jasmin Hall, SAWPA  
Zyanya Ramirez, SAWPA  
Rick Whetsel, SAWPA

### 1. Call to Order & Introductions

The MSAR TMDL Task Force Meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Rick Whetsel at SAWPA with all participants participating remotely.

### 2. Approval of Meeting Notes from the April 28, 2025 MSAR Task Force Meeting

The April 28, 2025 meeting notes were approved with the following revision, Kevin Dunn, OCPW requested to remove the text “10 weeks of” from the OCPW Status Update to Bacteria Reduction Implementation Activities.

## Regional Water Quality Monitoring Meeting Items

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

Steve Wolosoff of GEI Consultants reported that all dry, warm-season sampling for the 2025–26 monitoring year had been completed, including five weeks of concurrent synoptic sampling. He shared that all data had been uploaded to the monitoring dashboard, providing up-to-date results covering the full dry season. Wolosoff noted improved field conditions compared to the previous year, with fewer weather disruptions or logistical challenges.

He stated that the compiled data will support analysis for the upcoming 2026 Triennial Report. Wolosoff highlighted that coordination among Riverside Flood Control, San Bernardino County Flood Control, and local POTWs was strong, enabling simultaneous sampling at MS4 outfalls and receiving waters.

Rick Whetsel thanked Wolosoff for the update and confirmed that all monitoring activities align with the TMDL Task Force requirements. No stakeholder questions were raised at this time.

**2. Discussion: Updates to SAR Regional Bacteria Monitoring Plan and QAPP (Steven Wolosoff GEI Consultants)**

Steve Wolosoff of GEI Consultants discussed updates to the Santa Ana River Regional Bacteria Monitoring Plan and the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). He explained that stakeholder feedback and Regional Board comments, many of which were procedural rather than data-specific, had been incorporated into the revisions. Proposed adjustments include removing redundancy with other monitoring programs and clarifying the use of appropriate bacterial indicators (E. coli versus Enterococcus).

He also recommended reverting to the standard 24-hour analytical method for E. coli testing to improve result accuracy and updating roles and responsibilities, as several had not been reviewed in over four years. Wolosoff emphasized that these updates will make the monitoring program more consistent and efficient across jurisdictions.

Rick Whetsel noted that revised drafts will be circulated for review prior to final submission to the Regional Board. He reiterated that no changes to the on-going monitoring will be implemented until the updated monitoring plan and QAPP receive Board approval.

**3. RWQM Task Force Administration (SAWPA Staff)**

Rick Whetsel briefly reported that invoices for the FY 2025–26 cycle had been issued. He asked members to verify payment status and coordinate with SAWPA if needed.

Chris Bland (San Bernardino County Flood Control District) inquired about the draft budget for FY 2026–27. Whetsel acknowledged the delay, citing the rapid passage of the year, and committed to issuing the draft budget within two weeks. He added that no significant changes were anticipated, as current multi-year monitoring contracts and administrative costs remain stable.

Whetsel concluded the item by confirming that a draft budget for FY 2026-27 would be distributed to stakeholders within the next two week in preparation for discussion and a recommendation of approval at the November Task Force meeting.

**Middle Santa Ana River TMDL Meeting Items:**

**1. Update: Limited MSAR Basin Plan Amendment (Tess Dunham/KSC and Steven Wolosoff/GEI)**

Tess Dunham of KSC reported that revisions to the MSAR Basin Plan Amendment are nearly complete and scheduled for public notice later in October to meet the Regional Board's December 2025 hearing deadline. She explained that the amendment primarily extends the wet-weather TMDL attainment date from December 31, 2025, to December 31, 2035, without altering numeric targets for fecal coliform or E. coli.

Dunham described the limited scope of changes, including updates to population data, agricultural figures, and program implementation language. She emphasized that the new Phase 2 program of implementation includes stakeholder coordination, revised permits and regulatory actions, and updates to the Comprehensive Bacteria Reduction Plan (CBRP). Agricultural references were reduced due to minimal remaining activity in the watershed.

Wolosoff added that the revised implementation schedule includes a six-year outlook, after which a full TMDL re-evaluation (Phase 3) may occur. He and Dunham confirmed alignment between the technical report and Basin Plan amendment language.

**2. Update 2026 Triennial Report and Synoptic Study (Tess Dunham/KSC and Steven Wolosoff/GEI)**

Wolosoff provided a preliminary overview of the ongoing Synoptic Study and 2026 Triennial Report. He explained that the data compilation is nearly complete, with results being analyzed to assess dry- and

wet-weather bacteria loads. Key findings include confirmation of significant upstream bacteria contributions to Reach 3 of the Santa Ana River and evidence that Mill Creek wetlands continue to perform effectively in bacteria reduction.

He shared that the synoptic sampling effort coordinated multiple agencies and included simultaneous water and sediment sampling across Tier 1 and 2 outfalls. This enhanced dataset will improve the understanding of bacteria source dynamics and help refine BMP implementation strategies.

Wolosoff noted that a full presentation will be shared at a future meeting once final datasets are reviewed.

**3. Status Update: Bacteria Reduction Implementation Activities**

Due to time constraints, Rick Whetsel proposed tabling the detailed updates on bacteria reduction implementation activities from the regional agencies (RCFC&WCD, SBCFCD, Orange County, Pomona & Claremont, and Agricultural Operators).

**4. MSAR TMDL Task Force Administration (SAWPA Staff)**

Rick Whetsel reiterated that invoices for FY 2025–26 had been issued and that a draft budget for FY 2026–27 would be distributed to stakeholders within the next two week in preparation for discussion and a recommendation of approval at the November Task Force meeting. He confirmed that no major cost changes are anticipated.

**5. Other Business**

No other business were discussed.

**6. Schedule Next Meeting**

The next meeting is proposed as a Joint RWQM and MSAR TMDL Task Force meeting and is scheduled for Monday, November 10, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**7. Adjourn**

There being no further business for review, the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.