

**LAKE ELSINORE/CANYON LAKE TMDL TASK FORCE  
MEETING NOTES**

**April 24, 2019**

**PARTICIPANTS**

Steven Wolosoff  
John McNamara  
Melanie Sotelo  
Rae Beimer  
Cynthia Gabaldon  
Maria Arreguin  
Mike Roberts  
Stormy Osifeso  
Lynn Merrill  
Lenai Hunter  
Sudhir Mohleji  
Janna Taing  
Greg Kahlen  
Tim Moore  
Ken Theisen  
Abigail Suter  
Andrea Gonzalez  
Richard Boon  
Tess Dunham  
Chris Stransky  
Rick Whetsel  
Mark Norton

**REPRESENTATIVE**

CDM Smith  
CR&R  
City of Hemet  
City of Moreno Valley  
City of Perris  
City of Perris  
City of Riverside  
City of Riverside  
City of San Jacinto  
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District  
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District  
MBI/Caltrans  
The Kahlen Group  
Risk Sciences  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD  
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD  
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD  
SSD  
Wood Environmental  
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority  
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

**VIA-CONFERENCE CALL**

Andy Ramirez  
Richard Meyerhoff  
Nicole Dailey  
Pat Boldt  
Kasey Castillo  
Loren Sotelo

City of San Jacinto  
GEI Consultants  
City of Lake Elsinore  
WRCAC  
City of Canyon Lake  
March JPA

**Call to Order & Introductions**

The Lake Elsinore/Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m. by Mark Norton at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Riverside, California.

**Meeting Notes**

The March 19, 2019 LE/CL TMDL Task Force meeting notes were deemed acceptable.

**Update: Basin Plan Amendment to Update and Revise TMDLs**

**May 3, 2019 Public Workshop (Regional Board)**

Ken Theisen /Santa Ana Regional Board reminded stakeholders of the upcoming May 3<sup>rd</sup> Public Workshop for the revised LE&CL TMDLs. Mr. Theisen informed stakeholders that he has not received any official comments to date on the tentative resolution (distributed to stakeholders on April 17<sup>th</sup>) and noted that the Regional Board staff has requested extending the comment period to June 30<sup>th</sup>. Extending the comment period will not lengthen the process as it is expected to coincide with the peer review of the TMDL Technical document.

It is anticipated that the Regional Board will schedule a public hearing for adoption of the revised LE&CL TMDLs in August or September.

Mr. Theisen requested stakeholders to show their support for the proposed revised TMDLs and attend the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop. It was also suggested having elected officials attend and provide written statements of support.

Mr. Theisen does not expect EPA to attend the workshop and noted from recent conversations with EPA staff and their concerns with approving a TMDL that does not meet a chlorophyll target 100% of the time or protecting beneficial uses 100% of the time. Mr. Theisen explained the issues with Lake Elsinore periodically going dry and ultimately believes that EPA will approve the revised LE&CL TMDLs.

#### Preparation of Comment Letter on behalf of Task Force (Risk Sciences)

Tim Moore /Risk Sciences informed stakeholders that he will be preparing a comment letter to the Regional Board on behalf of the LE&CL TMDL. This letter, for the most part, will address some errata issues in that what is written may be perceived differently than we intended. Mr. Moore does not plan to submit this comment letter prior to the May 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop.

On a related note, Mr. Moore will be resubmitting our comments on the proposed EPA aluminum standards to EPA in an effort to get them to recognize our concerns, which were not addressed as part of the effort to develop the criteria guidance document. This will be done as part of an effort by EPA to implement these new aluminum standards in Oregon, whereas as part of the process to implement these new standards EPA is required for formally respond to all submitted comments.

#### **Discussion: TMDL Compliance Accounting (Risk Sciences)**

Tim Moore /Risk Sciences presented handouts to the stakeholders summarizing both the nutrient offset credits generated by LEAMS and the Canyon Lake alum project. These handouts were prepared with the intent of showing stakeholders where they are in terms of compliance.

Mr. Moore described how the operation of LEAMS has generated an excess of nutrient off-set credits, which has resulted in great improvements to Lake Elsinore water quality. However, LEAMS credits did not become available to the Task Force stakeholders until 2016. Therefore, this has not resulted in stakeholders being able to accrue adequate nutrient off-set credits to demonstrate compliance back to the beginning of the TMDL compliance cycle in 2011. To bring all participating stakeholders into compliance, he proposed a solution using available nutrient off-set credits from LEAMS. EVMWD's permit is setup on a five-year rolling average, whereas the TMDL runs on a ten-year rolling average. Therefore, any credits generated over five years ago are no use to EVMWD, but still have value to TMDL stakeholders. As TMDL stakeholders have shown good faith in purchasing LEAMS nutrient off-set credits, Mr. Moore proposed that the LEAMS Operating/Funding partners grant an equal number of "bonus nutrient off-set credits" to TMDL stakeholders for nutrient off-set credits purchased in 2016, 2017 and 2018, for 2011, 2012 and 2013. This would only apply to nutrient off-set credits available after the LEAMS Operators compliance is assured, and the window has closed to those credits being of any use to them. He noted that this is a onetime retroactive deal that only applied to the period of time that the credits were not available to TMDL stakeholders (2011 through 2015).

Mr. Moore reminded stakeholders that the new TMDL will reset the clock on compliance, which is expected to happen before the end of 2020, and with that, all the past credits will expire, and stakeholders will start over again with a new ten-year TMDL compliance window.

Ken Theisen /Santa Ana Regional Board raised a question regarding EVMWD's schedule for revising the accounting method for calculating LEAMS off-sets, which is overdue. Mr. Moore responded that it is currently being worked on by Dr. Alex Horne. A final report is expected in early 2020.

Mark Norton /LESJWA raised a question regarding the operational performance of LEAMS, noting that the City of Lake Elsinore is currently requesting bids for the replacement of various components of the axial mixing system. Mr. Moore noted that Dr. Horne is currently focused on the estimation of nutrient off-set credits but could look at the operational performance if directed. It was proposed that the LEAMS Operators schedule a meeting to review the proposal to upgrade the mixing system and discuss an assessment of LEAMS.

#### **Discussion: Lake Elsinore**

Nicole Dailey /City of Lake Elsinore noted that lake level is currently over 1241 and informed stakeholders that Wood Environmental has initiated their sediment plume analysis to investigate possible short and long term impacts to Lake Elsinore.

Ms. Dailey noted that City Council earlier this month did formally take a position of opposition to the Lake Elsinore Advanced Pump Storage Project (LEAPS). This was not a formal action in terms of any application submitted to the City, but rather a policy decision on their part reflecting the opinion of the community. This opposition is based upon the uncertainty of Nevada Hydro to agree to certain conditions to assure key components of the project provide benefits to the community and the lake.

Mark Norton /LESJWA informed stakeholders that Tim Moore has offered to address the LESJWA Board regarding LEAPS, to ask for the Board's permission for the Task Force to be more engaged in communication with the proponents of the LEAPS project to address the various questions raised by the City. The Board has indicated that they are not supportive of the task force actively working with LEAPS, but they are willing to hear what Tim Moore has to say. This will take place at the next LESJWA Board meeting scheduled in August.

Mr. Norton informed the Task Force that the LESJWA Board did approve a policy for cost share agreements for accepting outside funding. He has put together a letter of Agreement with CRR. John McNamara, representing CR&R has agreed to the letter of agreement and agreed to pay an invoice for roughly \$60,000 to support the work of the task force.

### **Discussion: Canyon Lake**

#### Alum Application Scheduled Week of April 15<sup>th</sup> (LESJWA Staff)

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA updated the Task Force on the Canyon Lake Alum Application conducted the week of April 15<sup>th</sup>. He noted that the application was originally planned for February, but the frequent rains resulted in the Task Force needing to reschedule the application numerous times. Aquatechnex was successful in applying the alum without issues relating to the rains. However, the application in the shallow East Bay area resulted in some floating floc, which may have been a side effect of a number of things including warmer water temperatures or an algae bloom, which the alum would float to the top. Aquatechnex followed up on the issues by spraying water on the floating floc and using their boats wave action to break up the surface tension and allow the alum to drop through the water column. Kasey Castillo /City of Canyon Lake noted there were some small issues but the overall consensus is that the alum applications went well.

Mr. Whetsel informed stakeholders that our next alum application is scheduled for September. This will be the last alum application under the current contract with Aquatechnex. An RFP will be issued in the fall for continuing alum applications into 2020 and the re-evaluation of the alum application plan in coordination with the revised TMDLs.

### **Task Force Administration (LESJWA Staff)**

#### Proposed Budget Workshop for May

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA informed the Task Force of an interest by stakeholders and RCFC&WCD staff to hold a workshop. RCFC&WCD staff will take the lead in coordinating with Steve Wolosoff /CDM Smith in setting up this workshop prior to our next scheduled LE&CL TMDL Task Force Meeting.

#### Draft FY 2019-20 Task Force Budget

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA presented the latest draft LE&CL TMDL Task Force budget to the Task Force. Stakeholders stated that they did not want to consider the FY 2019-20 budget until after the budget workshop, and until after the issues with the on-site BMP credits are resolved.

#### Amendment No. 1 to Task Force Agreement

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA informed the Task Force of recent conversations with the City of Menifee and how their signature page is anticipated to be submitted in the near future. However, there is no update regarding the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife.

### **Other Business**

Mark Norton /LESJWA recommended that the LE&CL TMDL Task Force support the succession plan by Tim Moore and the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ). The rationale is that staff might have a difficult time in justifying a sole source. Mr. Norton suggested that SAWPA prepare and issue a single RFQ that would be used by each of the three task forces in looking to replace Tim Moore /Risk Sciences. The consensus of the Task Force was to go with the RFQ process.

Lynn Merrill representing the City of San Jacinto requested the Task Force to conduct sampling of Mystic Lake to characterize the water quality. Richard Boon /RCFC&WCD informed the Task Force that District staff will take the lead in coordinating with Wood Environmental to collect a sample from Mystic Lake.

**Schedule Next Meeting**

The next LE&CL TMDL Task Force meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at SAWPA.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.