

Basin Monitoring Program Task Force

August 12, 2019

STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT:

Chino Basin Watermaster, Edgar Tellez Foster
Chino Basin Watermaster, Justin Nakano
City of Beaumont, Kevin Lee*
City of Corona, Jennifer McMullin
City of Rialto, Tom Crowley
City of Riverside, Bobby Gustafson
City of Riverside, Greg Herzog
City of Riverside, Michael Plinski
City of Riverside/SARDA, Robert Eland*
City of Riverside RWQCP, Edward Filadelfia

Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Jesus Gastelum
Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Lenai Hunter
Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Parag Kalaria
Elsinore Valley Municipal WD, Sudhir Mohleji
Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Joshua Aguilar
Orange County Water District, Greg Woodside
Orange County Water District, Marsha Westropp
SBMWD/RIX JPA, Jennifer Shepardson
WMWD/WRCRWA, Mallory Gandara
Yucaipa Valley Water District, Ashley Gibson

OTHERS PRESENT:

Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Hannah Erbele
Geoscience Support Services, Lauren Wicks
Risk Sciences, Tim Moore
S.A. Watershed Project Authority, Haley Mullay
S.A. Watershed Project Authority, Mark Norton
S.A. Watershed Project Authority, T. Milford Harrison
S.A. Watershed Project Authority, Zyanya Ramirez

S.A. Regional Water Quality Control Board, Cindy Li
S.A. Regional Water Quality Control Board, Keith Person
Somachs, Simmons, & Dunn, Theresa Dunham
Wildermuth Environmental, Inc., Samantha Adams
WSC, Jeff Szytel
WSC, Laine Carlson
WSC, Michael Cruikshank

STAKEHOLDERS ABSENT:

Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
City of Banning
City of Redlands
Eastern Municipal Water District
Irvine Ranch Water District

Jurupa Community Service District
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
San Geronio Pass Water Agency
Temescal Valley Water District

* Participated via conference call

Call to Order/Introductions

The Basin Monitoring Program Task Force (Task Force) meeting commenced at 1:31 p.m. at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) located at 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California. Brief introductions were made.

Approval of June 18, 2019 Meeting Notes

The June 18, 2019 meeting notes were approved.

Triennial Ambient Water Quality Update – WSC, Inc.

Michael Cruikshank, from WSC, provided a Powerpoint presentation with an update on the database and statistics process for the Ambient Water Quality report. All agencies throughout the watershed have submitted the requested data points to WSC. Currently, the data is being updated into the database after a QA/QC check on the data and processing the spread of data collected. The database is in Access, a Microsoft application, that can easily export the data to GAMA for future use.

Over the last three years, 6000 wells were used to compile data in water quality and water level, generating more than 1,000,000 points of data to be processed. Data spanned many variables, more than just nitrate and TDS, allowing it to be normalized and considered valuable to the process. The Shapiro Wilk test was used for assessing normality and identifying true outliers in the data. This allows as much data in the set to be evaluated, giving a range of true point statistics, as the sets are kept from being pared down too far. Outlier examples are shown in slide 7 of their presentation.

Potential biases were reviewed and discussed, focusing on the effects it had on the data sets prior to 2005. The new method of data collection and processing considers the whole data set, instead of it being pared

down to a small subset. In this new method there are four different tests that must be conducted for values/data to be taken out of the calculations. The goal for the next meeting will be to have developed water level contour maps and figures to show the changes in the data. In approximately October, WSC will be reaching out to individual agencies to get information and collect final data for the maps/figures to be generated.

SAR Wasteload Allocation Model Scenarios Update - SAWPA

Lauren Wicks from Geoscience provided a verbal update on the Santa Ana River WLAM report. Comments have been requested from the group on the drafts Technical Memo 5, Technical Memo 6 and the summary report that were sent to the group on July 19th, 2019.

The comments are due as follows:

- Technical Memo 5 comments are due by Friday, August 16th
- Technical Memo 6 comments are due by Friday, August 23rd
- Draft summary and report comments are due by Friday, September 6th

Responses to all comments are planned to take place at the September Task Force meeting on Wednesday, September 18th.

The Technical Memos (5 & 6) were created for the first time to show information in a new way. Technical Memo 5 looks at the off-channel recharge of natural rainfall: where it occurs and what effects it may or may not have on the groundwater basin and future water quality. Technical Memo 6 is to use our model to calculate what would have happened in the 2007-2016 period, but instead of using worst-case assumptions (maximum use of permit limits and amount of discharge) it focuses on what happened, in terms of daily flow, nitrogen and TDS. Comparing the measured values to the actual values recorded allows us to see if the model is in true working form.

The report will have huge implications for the operations of the watershed and how the next 20-30 years will unfold for the SAR Watershed. The Task Force will be met with decisions to be made on how to not only repair the water quality, but to enforce the standards and objectives defined.

Ratify TF Recommendation to support Theresa Dunham of Somach Simmons & Dunn as regulatory Strategist/Facilitator consultant for FY 19-20 and FY 20-21

Mark Norton presented the ratification of support for recommendation of Theresa Dunham from Somach, Simmons & Dunn. She will be shadowing Tim Moore of Risk Sciences and is set to continue with consulting the Task Force after his retirement.

Four consultants submitted proposals that were reviewed by a committee was assembled, made up of representatives from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, SAWPA staff and 2-3 members from each task force that Tim Moore currently consults – Middle Santa Ana River TMDL Task Force, Lake Elsinore-Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force, and the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force. During the SAWPA Commission meeting on Tuesday, August 6th, 2019, the SAWPA Commission approved a two-year task order contract for Theresa Dunham to provide consultant services on the previously mentioned Task Forces. No questions or concerns were brought forth by the Task Force.

MOVED, to approve ratification and support the recommendation and approval of Theresa Dunham of Somach, Simmons & Dunn to support the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force.

Results: **Adopted (Unanimously)**

Motion/Second: Tellez Foster/Shepardson

Summary of recent revisions to the Recycled Water Policy and the implications for the Santa Ana River Watershed

Tim Moore, of Risk Sciences, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Recycled Water Policy revisions and focused on how these changes could affect the Task Force. There are new annual reporting requirements: some require specificity on where the recycled water use takes place and other requirements are focused on Salt and Nutrient Management Plans (SNMPs). Most of these revised requirements are completed in the watershed's Ambient Water Quality report that the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force conducts every 3 years.

Essentially, the purpose of the policy is to determine whether a SNMP is warranted and how it will be monitored and enforced. The Recycled Water Policy revisions are now written to imply that the exceedance of an objective means that the use is impaired. SNMPs will be required for areas that exhibit an exceedance of any of the specified objectives. As the current objectives set in the basin are at a level of anti-degradation and not at impaired use; this may need to be re-evaluated by the Task Force to keep confusion to a minimum.

Requirements were reviewed highlighting the changes that would trigger evolution to the Task Force. Slides from the presentation provided by Tim Moore of Risk Sciences list out all requirements from the Recycled Water Policy revisions. These changes will start conversations in development and implementation of programs, across the watershed, to monitor and correct exceeded nutrient levels to achieve a desired, and required, quality of water across the basin.

WE Inc. Presentation on Suggestions to Modify Future SAR Watershed AWQ Updates due to Recycled Water Policy Amendments

Samantha Adams, of Wildermuth Environmental, Inc (WEI), provided a PowerPoint presentation of a conceptual process where they identified the State Board's proposed amendments to the Recycled Water Policy and utilized it as a framework for amending the implementation plan and recommended changes to the ambient water quality update process that would reduce the frequency and cost of assimilative capacity assessments.

All Groundwater Management Zones (GMZs) in the watershed are currently fulfilling many of the data reporting and data collecting requirements, however with the revisions to the Policy, we may be able to react to the findings more effectively. In order to do this, WEI shared their concept of prioritization and gave feedback on how to accomplish satisfying the requirements put forth by the new policy.

Prioritization relies on defined variables that would assign the level of priority for each GMZ. The potential variables/factors suggested can be found on slide 16 of WEI's presentation. Prioritization would essentially allow us to invest more in the GMZs that have potential to be brought back into compliance by gathering more detailed and focused data, but not having to provide those same efforts where they are not necessary, reducing costs and focusing efforts where it's truly beneficial. This supports the recommendation WEI makes on prioritization facilitating the Task Force in developing a program that is focused and intentioned on specific objectives, making it achievable.

Revisions to the policy state deadlines for implementation plans/schemes are due by April 8, 2021. Technical work performed pursuant to the new implementation plan is due by April 8, 2024.

Tim Moore stated at the next meeting, he would be discussing each of the Groundwater Management Zones where the new WLAM indicates that recharge quality may cause degradation

to existing ambient quality or may exceed the current water quality objective. Tess Dunham and Tim Moore will then recommend a strategy for addressing each of these situations and propose a schedule to implement the strategy.

Schedule Future Meetings

The next Basin Monitoring Program Task Force meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 1:30pm.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.