

MSAR TMDL Task Force Meeting Notes

May 29, 2019

PARTICIPANTS

Steven Wolosoff
Nisha Wells
Cordell Chavez
Kris Hanson
Abigail Gomez
Julie Carver
Lynn Merrill
Stormy Osifeso
Menu Leddy
Marsha Westropp
Bill Hemsley
Tim Moore
Andrea Gonzales
Abigail Suter
Arlene Chun
Barbara Barry
Jayne Joy
Mark Norton
Rick Whetsel

REPRESENTING

CDM Smith
City of Chino Hills
City of Corona
City of Eastvale
City of Fontana
City of Pomona
City of Rialto
City of Riverside
EEES
OCWD
Interwest Consulting Group
Risk Sciences
Riverside County Flood Control
Riverside County Flood Control
San Bernardino Areawide Program
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
SAWPA
SAWPA

VIA-CONFERENCE CALL

Pat Boldt
Amanda Grey
Kimberly Colbert
Megan Brousseau

MPC
UC Riverside
The Colbert Group for the City of Claremont
Inland Empire Waterkeeper

1. Call to Order & Introductions

The MSAR TMDL Task Force Meeting was called to order at 9:11 a.m. by Rick Whetsel at SAWPA. Brief introductions were made by the attendees.

2. Approval of the Meeting Notes

Rick Whetsel asked for any comments on the April 23, 2019 MSAR TMDL meeting notes. There were no comments and the meeting notes were deemed acceptable.

3. Presentation/Discussion: Synoptic Watershed Study Scope of Work (Richard Meyerhoff/GEI Consultants and Steve Wolosoff/CDM Smith)

Steve Wolosoff/CDM Smith presented an overview of the proposed Synoptic Study of bacteria sources in the Middle Santa Ana River Watershed. This study is intended to address recommendations from the 2018 Regional Board audit of the Riverside and San Bernardino Counties Comprehensive Bacteria Reduction Plans to redo the Tier 1 and Tier 2 analyses conducted in 2011 and 2012, and to update high priority sites. Additionally, the data collected through this study will support the following:

- Reprioritize for the next 5-year permit cycle
- Review, revise and update the MSAR TMDLs
- Implement amendments to the Basin Plan to align the Basin Plan with the State Board's new statewide water quality criteria
- Address 303d listing pending that we need to decide if we need a new TMDL or be on a delist path, or if there is another alternative to the TMDLs and
- Serve as effectiveness demonstration to tell if what we have been doing is working.

Moving forward the project is scheduled to deliver the draft study plan to stakeholders and Regional Board staff prior to June 15 and the final study plan prior to July 15. Sampling is scheduled to begin

week of July 29 and it will be done in collaboration with RCFC&WCD, SBCFCD, and the Cities of Pomona, Rialto and San Bernardino staff to conduct the field work.

Megan Brousseau /IEWK noted an inadvertent discharge of recycled water in the area of the Riverside Water Quality Control Plant from the Toro testing grounds through an eroded channel. Mr. Wolosoff said the consultant team will investigate the issue.

Jayne Joy /Regional Board asked a question regarding the influence of the wet 2019 winter/spring on the planned dry season monitoring. Mr. Wolosoff and Tim Moore /Risk Sciences noted that the potential for rising groundwater could have an influence on the data.

Ms. Brousseau raised a question regarding the HF143 method proposed by the consultant team for the bacteroides analysis. Menu Leddy /EEES responded that the work proposed is focused on identifying the human DNA marker, and not so much with other species and the HF143 method is the most robust method for identify the human marker. Ms. Brousseau also asked why the consultant team is not separating the non-viable from the viable DNA. Ms. Leddy responded that the methodology used a DNA test and it cannot tell the difference in the Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) between non-viable and viable DNA. If you did not do a PCR test then you would miss all of the non-viable and would only be able to identify the viable DNA. The PCR method shows both the viable and non-viable DNA. Ms. Brousseau followed up with the question that if we are not focusing on only the viable DNA, we cannot tell about the dangers present in the water. Ms. Leddy responded that the purpose of this study is to quantify the total load and then each site is prioritized by the measured total load. Ms. Leddy followed up and made it known if another group wants to use the samples collected through this study to conduct additional testing, she will make a sub-set of the samples available.

Lynn Merrill /representing the City of Rialto asked how the team will deal with possible summer storms. Mr. Wolosoff responded that there will be a 72 hour hold on any monitoring following a storm event, which should be sufficient time to bring the system back to baseline.

Mr. Wolosoff informed stakeholders that the consultant team will be following up with key stakeholders to confirm the details of the study design. Mr. Wolosoff requested that all comments on the Study Design be submitted to the consultant team by COB on Friday, June 7th.

Mr. Moore noted that although everyone including Regional Board staff is supporting the Synoptic Study, the Task Force has not received a formal response from Regional Board to approve the Triennial Report alternative.

Jayne Joy /Regional Board confirmed that the Regional Board will prepare a formal letter to approve the approach to conduct a Synoptic Study as proposed by the Task Force.

4. Update: Triennial Review (Regional Board)

Tim Moore /Risk Sciences reminded stakeholders of the draft priority list of issues to be included in the 2019 Basin Plan triennial review by Regional Board posted on May 13th. This includes the review and possibly revisions to the Bacterial Indicator TMDLs for the Middle Santa Ana River Watershed Waterbodies.

Mr. Moore noted, with respect to the request to update the MSAR TMDLs, a Reasonable Assurance Analysis conducted in 2013 as part of the development of Comprehensive Bacteria Reduction Plans (CBRP) for Riverside and San Bernardino counties had estimated that a 15 to 20 percent reduction of the overall mass of bacteria would be sufficient for stakeholders to achieve TMDL compliance. To date stakeholders actually reduced the total bacteria load by 40 or more percent (90% in Chino and Cucamonga Creeks) and yet stakeholders are not in compliance despite reaching all of the goals established for reducing the total mass of bacteria. The reason that stakeholders are not in compliance on a concentration basis is that at the same time stakeholders were reducing the total mass of bacteria and dry weather flows, the flow of recycled water to these streams, with essentially zero concentrations of bacteria were also greatly reduced. The end result being a minimal change in stream bacteria concentrations. It is this change in hydrology and sources that bring us back to relooking at the TMDLs.

Next, Mr. Moore asked Regional Board staff if an update to the Table 5-REC2 only antidegradation targets for freshwater waterbodies was to be included in the 2019 priority list, as it is important to align our (Region 8) method to compute antidegradation targets with that of the State Board. Ms. Joy acknowledged that this issue will be addressed as part of the 2019 priority list.

5. Update: SAWPA Assessment of Impacts of Homelessness on Water Quality in the Santa Ana River (SAWPA Staff)

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA updated stakeholders on the project, noting that project funding through the Proposition 1 funded Disadvantaged Community Involvement program is being held up until project evaluation criteria is approved by DWR. It is anticipated that project evaluation criteria's will be approved in June and that we can start the project shortly afterward. It was requested that SAWPA share the project scope of work with stakeholders.

6. Update: Transition Plan for Risk Sciences (SAWPA Staff)

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA updated stakeholders on the effort by SAWPA to implement a transition plan for Risk Sciences. He informed stakeholders that the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force has decided to do a RFQ to identify possible candidates for the Regulatory Compliance Expert position, and for consistency and transparency, SAWPA has expanded the RFQ to cover all Task Forces.

Mr. Whetsel then asked if there were any Task Force members interested in participating on the RFQ review panel. Both Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, and the City of Riverside volunteered to participate in the effort. Mr. Whetsel will share more information of the RFQ review process as it becomes available.

7. TMDL Task Force Administration (SAWPA Staff)

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA brought up the issue of the participation of the Phase II small MS4s, specifically the University of California, Riverside (UC Riverside) in participating in the MSAR TMDL Task Force.

Following discussion, the Task Force was supportive of having UC Riverside participate in the MSAR TMDL Task Force as a non-voting member. A motion was put forward by Lynn Merrill /representing the City of Rialto and seconded by Arlene Chun /SBCFCD that UC Riverside provide an equal share contribution of the FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20 MSAR TMDL Task Force budget to participate in the MSAR TMDL Task Force and the upcoming Synoptic Study of bacteria Sources in the Middle Santa Ana River Watershed. The motion was approved unanimously by the Task Force.

Ms. Pat Boldt informed stakeholders, with respect to the other Phase II small MS4s named in the updated NPDES general permit, the CA Institute for Men, CA Institute for Women, and CA Rehab Center are entities that are already covered through the Chino Basin Watermaster, which is already a participant of the MSAR TMDL Task Force.

Status Update: Amendment to MSAR Task Force Agreement

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA informed stakeholders that the City of Claremont is planning to take the Amendment to the Agreement to their City Council on June 25. This will be the final signature for the agreement.

8. Other Business

None discussed.

9. Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting is a MSAR TMDL Task Force and is scheduled for September 17, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at SAWPA. A joint MSAR TMDL / Regional Water Quality Task Force meeting was recommended to follow in October.

10. Adjourn

There being no further business for review, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.