

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

March 25, 2020

PARTICIPANTS

VIA-CONFERENCE CALL

Garth Engelhorn
Steven Wolosoff
Kris Hanson
Dan Cortese
Nicole Dailey
Rae Beimer
Cynthia Gabaldon
Cynthia Gabaldon
Maria Arreguin
Mike Roberts
Lynn Merrill
Rachael Johnson
Richard Meyerhoff
Tess Dunham
Loren Sotelo
Ankita Vyas
Barbara Barry
Sue Ann Neal
Lauma Willis
Tim Moore
Alonzo Barrera
Richard Boon
Rebekah Guill
Abigail Suter
Amy McNeill
Greg Kahlen
Chris Stransky
John Rudolph
Pat Boldt
Mark Norton
Rick Whetsel
T. Milford Harrison

REPRESENTATIVE

Alta Environmental
CDM Smith
City of Canyon Lake/Wildomar
City of Hemet
City of Lake Elsinore
City of Moreno Valley
City of Menifee
City of Perris
City of Perris
City of Riverside
City of San Jacinto
Farm Bureau
GEI Consultants
Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP
March JPA
Michael Baker/Caltrans
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Risk Sciences
Riverside County Executive Office
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
The Kahlen Group
Wood Environmental
Wood Environmental
WRCAC
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

Call to Order & Introductions

The Lake Elsinore/Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by Mark Norton with all participants participating remotely, due to COVID-19 related social distancing restrictions.

Meeting Notes

Approval of the Meeting Notes from the January 15, 2020 Task Force meeting were deemed acceptable.

Addition to the agenda:

Mark Norton informed the Task Force that Tess Dunham has taken a new position at the law firm Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP. Tess confirmed to the Task Force that there are no conflicts of interest with this move and that her rates and task force budget through the end of her current agreement with LESJWA would not change.

Following discussion, Mark requested a recommendation from stakeholders for the LESJWA Board to approve a new agreement for Tess Dunham to continue to serve the Task Force through her role at Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP. A motion was put forward by Lynn Merrill/representing the City of San Jacinto and seconded by Cynthia Gabaldon/representing the City of Perris. The motion was approved unanimously by the Task Force.

Status of BPA to Revise the TMDL (Regional Board)

Schedule for Adoption Hearing (Regional Board)

Barbara Berry /Regional Board informed stakeholders that no formal date for an Adoption Hearing has been set. Regional Board is still planning for an Adoption Hearing this summer (2020). She noted that this may be delayed due to reshuffling of Regional Board agenda items due to the COVID-19 issue.

Lauma Willis /Regional Board also noted the current restriction on hiring by the Regional Board may contribute to delays with this process.

Status of "offsets" Language in Draft Resolution

Barbara Berry /Regional Board informed stakeholders that staff is fully supportive of continuing the LE&CL TMDL nutrient offset programs. Regional Board has not yet drafted language regarding the off-set credits for the LE&CL TMDLs and added that the Regional Board would likely alter language provided by Tim Moore.

Tess Dunham requested the Task Force have an opportunity to review the draft offsets language prepared by Regional Board staff prior to its formal public release. Regional Board staff agreed.

There is currently no schedule for the Regional Board to provide the Task Force with the revised draft language.

Response to Peer Review Comments

Barbara Berry /Regional Board informed stakeholders that staff has only taken a preliminary look at the consultant team's responses to the Regional Board peer review comments. She noted, this is very much what the Regional Board wanted. The format in which the responses were provided to the Regional Board for their consideration is helpful and upon preliminary review, it appeared to Regional Board staff that the draft responses are thoughtful and meticulous in responding to the Peer Reviewer comments.

As Barbara moves forward in reviewing the responses, she may request follow-up with the consultant team members with additional questions, clarifications or needs assistance with some of the comments assigned directly to Regional Board staff.

Chris Stransky noted that additional information is available including graphs and figures.

Lynn Merrill/ representing the City of San Jacinto requested the consultant team to include a break between the responses to different peer reviewers.

Action Item: LE&CL TMDL Water Quality Monitoring Program Task Order for Wood Environmental (LESJWA Staff)

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA provided an update to the Task Force regarding the request for proposals issued in January for Lake Elsinore Canyon Lake Nutrient TMDL Compliance & LEAMS Monitoring.

He informed the Task Force that only one proposal was received from the solicitation from Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions Inc. and feedback from stakeholders via email was positive. He then presented the item to stakeholders for further discussion.

A question was raised regarding the cost associated with the requirement for the report deliverables to be ADA compliant. Chris Stransky /Wood Environmental responded that there was no cost added because Wood did not believe it necessary to call out a separate cost to address ADA compliance. It is believed that these costs will not be significant and are incorporated into the reporting task (Task 6).

A question was raised regarding available contingency for additional monitoring, such as monitoring of Mystic Lake. The consultants informed the Task Force that the scope of work includes additional budget contingency to monitor up to five watershed storm events, whereas only three are required by the TMDL.

It was suggested that the consultant plan to address the ADA requirements from the beginning of the process to prepare the annual report, rather than trying to work in these requirements to the completed final report.

Following discussion, a motion was put forward by Lynn Merrill/representing the City of San Jacinto and seconded by Nicole Dailey/ City of Lake Elsinore to approve a new three-year agreement, with an option to exercise a two year extension with Wood Environmental and Infrastructure to continue to oversee and implement the TMDL water quality monitoring for the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake. The motion was approved unanimously by the Task Force.

Status: Spring 2020 Canyon Lake Alum Application (LESJWA Staff)

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA informed the Task Force of the decision made at the January 15th Task Force meeting to hold off on proceeding with a spring 2020 alum application until the February Canyon Lake monitoring results are available from Wood Environmental.

In early March, a review of the data by the Task Force consultants resulted in a recommendation by the Task Force consultants to proceed with the spring 2020 alum application. This recommendation was sent out via email for approval by stakeholders on March 3rd.

Rick went on to explain that due to the significant rainfall forecasted in March, the alum application was rescheduled for the week of April 13th, and as that date follows this meeting, we have the opportunity today to reopen the item to answer any additional questions.

The consultant team followed by providing the Task Force additional details to support their recommendation for proceeding with the spring 2020 Canyon Lake alum application. Steve Wolosoff /CDM Smith explained that one factor was that the February data showed TP concentrations to be greater than 0.1mg/l, which is the typical trigger for proceeding with an alum application. Additionally, with the amount of rainfall that we have received this spring, it is expected that a significant amount of TP was added to Canyon lake, which suggests the likelihood for a significant spring algal bloom. A large algal bloom in the spring 2020 would negatively impact the results of the effort of the Task Force to demonstrate compliance to Regional Board in this final year of the 2004 TMDL cycle. Tess Dunham / Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP added that based upon some calculations that the consulting team has been working through with respect to compliance with the 2004 TMDL wasteload allocations and offset credits that a spring 2020 alum application is in order to ensure compliance with the wasteload allocations that we will need to show at the end of 2020.

A question was raised if the COVID-19 issue would impact the alum application. Rick Whetsel informed the Task Force that Aquatechnex has assured LESJWA staff that they will take all necessary precautions and that no negative issues are expected, due to the small number of staff involved on the project.

It was then requested that Rick explain where the funding would come from for the alum application. The cost estimated for this spring alum application, based upon a full Canyon Lake is about \$100,000. The Task Force alum reserve currently estimated at \$125,000 is sufficient to cover the costs of a spring alum application. This contingency is from funds contributed specifically for the alum project and by stakeholders participating in the alum project. These funds will be drawn down proportional to the current Canyon Lake alum application cost allocation model.

Following discussion, a motion was put forward by Pat Boldt representing WRCAC of Lake Elsinore to approve a new three-year agreement, with an option to proceed with a spring 2020 Canyon Lake alum application. The motion was approved unanimously by the Task Force.

Mark Norton then introduced a request by Rebekah Guill /RCFC&WCD staff to discuss some observations made during regular LE/CL TMDL watershed storm event monitoring at a TMDL compliance site downstream of Canyon Lake by Garth Engelhorn /Alta Environmental regarding a new flow hydrograph pattern coming from Canyon Lake Railroad Canyon Dam. Nicole Dailey/City of Lake Elsinore was aware that EVMWD is doing some testing of the dam involving regular releases from the control structure (newly replaced valves) located at the bottom of the dam. There was an interest from the consultant whether this would have any impact on the water quality discharging from Canyon Lake and into Lake Elsinore. Obtaining information regarding the releases from EVMWD would be usefor for the TMDL annual report.

Nicole Dailey /City of Lake Elsinore offered to reach out to EVMWD to facilitate a conversation between EVMWD staff and our consultants overseeing and implementing the TMDL compliance monitoring program.

Task Force Administration (LESJWA Staff)

Draft FY 2020-21 Budget

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA presented for discussion a revised FY 2020-21 budget to the Task Force.

Following discussion by stakeholders, the following revisions were recommended to be incorporated into the draft FY 2020-21 budget:

- Change the name of Tess Dunham’s firm
- Doubling the alum offset credits to participating stakeholders in order to provide a contingency fund in case an alum application is required in the spring of 2021.

A revised budget incorporating the above will be distributed to the Task Force following today’s meeting for approval via email. The deadline for voting on this draft budget is 4:00 pm, Tuesday April 7th. It will be assumed that Task Force members are in support of approving the budget if no response is received to this request for approval of the Draft FY 2020-21 budget.

Other Business

Nicole Dailey/ City of Lake Elsinore informed stakeholders that Lake Elsinore is currently at 1,242.63 feet above mean sea level. This is the highest it has been since 2013 and should ensure the Lake will stay above 1,240 ft through the summer.

Lauma Willis/ Regional Board informed the Task Force that Regional Board is currently working to update their water quality report cards on Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake, which are due to the State Water Resource Control Board by April 20th. Barbara Berry / Regional Board will share the draft report cards with the Task Force for comments.

Schedule Next Meeting

The next LE/CL TMDL Task Force meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. as a virtual conference call meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.