

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

October 19, 2020

PARTICIPANTS

VIA-CONFERENCE CALL

Kris Hanson
Carlos Norvani
Cynthia Gabaldon
Cynthia Gabaldon
Maria Arreguin
Mike Roberts
Stormy Osifeso
Johnathan Skinner
Nicole Dailey
Lynn Merrill
Lauren Sotelo
Pat Boldt
Rachael Johnson
Lauma Willis
Barbara Barry
Yiping Cao
SueAnn Neal
Richard Boon
Rebekah Guill
Abigail Suter
Amy McNeil
Andrea Macias
Sudhir Mohleji
Lenai Hunter
Ankita Vyas
Scott Sewell
Richard Kim
Stefan Awender
Steven Wolosoff
Paula Kulis
Richard Meyerhoff
Tess Dunham
Greg Kahlen
Chris Stransky
Garth Engelhorn
Joyce Goode
Michael A Anderson
Mark Norton
Rick Whetsel
T. Milford Harrison

REPRESENTATIVE

City of Canyon Lake/Wildomar
City of Lake Elsinore
City of Menifee
City of Perris
City of Perris
City of Riverside
City of Riverside
City of Lake Elsinore
City of Lake Elsinore
City of San Jacinto
March JPA
WRCAC
Riverside County Farm Bureau
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Michael Baker/Caltrans
CA Department of Fish & Wildlife
CA Department of Fish & Wildlife
CA Department of Fish & Wildlife
CDM Smith
CDM Smith
GEI Consultants
Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP
The Kahlen Group
Wood Environmental
Alta Environmental
CASC Engineering
UC Riverside
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 1:31 p.m. by Rick Whetsel with all participants participating remotely, due to COVID-19 related social distancing restrictions.

Meeting Notes

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA asked for any comments on the September 22, 2020 LE&CL TMDL meeting notes. Stefan Awender /CA Department of Fish & Wildlife requested to be added to the Participants. There were no additional comments, and the meeting notes were deemed acceptable.

Status: TMDL Update (Regional Board)

a. Timing of Response to Comments

Barbara Berry /Regional Board informed the Task Force that Regional Board staff has continued to meet with the Task Force consultant team to discuss the response to the Peer Review comments and evaluate the Regional Board position on the TMDL update. With that Barbara stated that Regional Board staff is recommending additional model runs to help clarify the baseline/background assumptions.

b. Nutrient Offset Credit Language

Barbara informed the Task Force that Regional Board staff has not received any comments to date on the proposed revised nutrient offset credit language to be included in the TMDL update.

Tess Dunham informed Barbara that she is currently working to prepare a formal response on behalf of the task force and had a few questions:

Q. with respect to the proposed language “All feasible controls”, Tess asked if it would also be appropriate to revise to “All feasible and practicable controls.”

Q. regarding the reference to “effluent limitations in applicable permits”, understanding that not all the dischargers under this program have effluent limitations, notably the CWAD.

Q. There was no reference to wasteload allocations. Was this accidental or on purpose?

Barbara responded that omitting wasteload allocations was an accidental omission and regarding the other questions, she and her staff will need to think about what is most appropriate.

Tess followed up that she would write up the questions and submit to Regional Board in the next few weeks.

c. Revisions Recommended by Regional Board Staff

Cynthia Gabaldon representing the Cities of Perris and Menifee wanted to better understand Regional Board staff issues with the modeling and the additional modeling scenarios.

Barbara responded that there were several questions raised by the Peer Reviewers regarding the values used in the modeling process to evaluate the baseline/background conditions. She added that there was no sensitivity analysis performed on the models and that has left the Regional Board with questions as to the level of certainty in the baseline/background conditions.

Steve Wolosoff /CDM Smith stated that he and his team will put together a proposal to address the additional modeling for the next Task Force meeting.

d. Schedule Update on Adoption Hearing Date

Barbara stated that Regional Board staff will need to be able to address questions regarding the TMDL models prior to scheduling a workshop to bring the revised LE&CL TMDLs before the Regional Board. She also noted that Regional Board expects to open the revised LE&CL TMDLs for another round of public comment prior to the next workshop.

Discussion: 2020 TMDL Compliance Report (Tess Dunham/KSC)

Tess Dunham /Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP provided an update to the Task Force on the schedule for the 2020 TMDL Compliance Report. She noted that the consulting team was planning to finalize and submit the report in February-March 2021 to assure there would be sufficient time to analyze all available data for the 10-year compliance window. However, it was brought to her attention that the MS4 Comprehensive Nutrient Reduction Plan (CNRP) due date for this deliverable is December 31, 2020. To accommodate this regulatory deadline, Tess stated that the consultant team has reworked their schedule to accommodate this deadline. This will include the preparation of an initial report deliverable submitted by December 31st, which will include as much of the available 2020 water quality data as possible, and a supplemental update to be submitted later, when the full set of data is available.

Chris Stransky /Wood Environmental stated that his team should have the November in-lake monitoring data available for the December 31st deliverable, but it will not be possible to turn the December data around that quickly.

It was noted, that the current bi-monthly in-lake monitoring schedule for Canyon Lake shows monitoring to occur in both October and December, and it was suggested that the December Canyon Lake in-lake monitoring be moved up to November to enable this data to be included in the December 31st deliverable. Chris stated that he will work with his team to see about rescheduling that monitoring to November.

Chris also noted that storm events typically occur later in the winter, but if an early storm event does occur, his team would be ready to sample if required.

The next step is for the consultant team to have a draft 2020 TMDL Compliance Report available for review at the next Task Force meeting.

Update: Canyon Lake Alum (LESJWA Staff)

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA informed the Task Force that the fall Canyon Lake alum application scheduled for the week of October 12th as completed successfully by the Task Force consultant, Aquatechnex.

He noted that Aquatechnex staff identified a mature Water Hyacinth plant in the Easy Bay of the lake.

Scott Sewell /CA Department of Fish & Wildlife stated that the Water Hyacinth plant is an invasive species and Task Force should keep an eye out for these plants as they can dominate a water body.

Rick stated that staff will inform the monitoring consultant team to keep an eye out for these plants when they are out on the lakes and will follow-up with Mark Norton /LESJWA Administrator to coordinate with the LESJWA Public relations coordinator to inform the public.

Task Force Administration (LESJWA Staff)

Draft FY 2021 – 22 Budget

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA reported that staff will submit a draft FY 2021-22 budget to stakeholders in November.

Lake Elsinore Delisting for PCBs and DDT

Tess Dunham /Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP informed the Task Force that a letter was submitted to Regional Board requesting DDT and PCBs listings for Lake Elsinore be reassessed during the 2024 Integrated Report process. This request is supported by recent fish tissue analysis data reported to CEDEN on behalf of the TMDL Task Force as well as other site-specific weight of evidence.

Response to CA Dept Fish & Wildlife Letter

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA informed the Task Force that LESJWA staff working closely with Tess prepared a letter to respond to the questions posed by the California Department of Fish & Wildlife letter regarding their participation in the Task Force. Due to the nature of several questions, this letter requested Fish & Wildlife to reach out to Regional Board for additional information.

Stefan Awender /CA Department of Fish & Wildlife informed the Task Force that Fish & Wildlife has contacted Regional Board to set up a meeting to discuss their questions.

Other Business

Johnathan Skinner /City of Lake Elsinore informed the Task Force of an opportunity for Lake Elsinore to add hybrid striped bass (wipers) to lake Elsinore and wanted to inquire if funding were available from the Task Force through their Fishery Management effort to support the stocking of wipers in Lake Elsinore. He noted that wipers were added to lake Elsinore in 2005 as a successful component of LESJWA's carp removal effort.

Mark Norton /LESJWA Administrator will follow-up with staff and the consultant team regarding available Task Force funds and if funding will be included in the FY 2021-22 budget.

Lauma Willis /Regional Water Quality Control Board informed the Task Force that Regional board is currently reviewing the LEAPS Water Quality Certification Application. She invited stakeholders to submit comments.

Mark added that LESJWA provides regular updates on LEAPS and if stakeholders are interested he invited them to review the latest LESJWA Board packets available on the LESJWA website, <https://mywatersheds.com/> .

Mark then informed the Task Force that LESJWA has updated their website and invited everyone to check it out.

Schedule Next Meeting

The next LE/CL TMDL Task Force meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2020 at 1:30 pm. as a virtual conference call meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.