

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

February 22, 2021

PARTICIPANTS

VIA-CONFERENCE CALL

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

REPRESENTATIVE

Alta Environmental
CA Department of Fish & Wildlife
CDM Smith
CDM Smith
City of Canyon Lake/Wildomar
City of Hemet
City of Lake Elsinore
City of Lake Elsinore
City of Lake Elsinore
City of Menifee
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
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP
March JPA
Michael Baker/Caltrans
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Riverside County Farm Bureau
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
The Kahlen Group
UC Riverside
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

Mark Norton /SAWPA asked for any comments on the January 25, 2021 LE&CL TMDL meeting notes.

There were minor comments, Page 1 - remove Rae Beimer as a representative of the City of Canyon Lake and Page 2 – correct spelling of Barbara Barry. The meeting notes were then deemed acceptable.

Status: TMDL Update (Regional Board)

a. Timing of Response to Comments

Barbara Barry /Regional Board informed the Task Force that Regional Board staff is continuing to work with the consultant team on the scope of work for the additional modeling requested to address comments by Peer Reviewers and questions by Regional Board staff.

Barbara restated that until this modeling is completed, the Regional Board will not be able to provide an update on the timing of when the Response to Comments or revisions to the TMDLs will be completed.

b. Nutrient Offset Credit Language

Tess Dunham /Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP informed Regional Board staff and the Task Force that she is still focused on wrapping up the work with the compliance assessment and TMDL modeling scenarios. Her plan is to have a draft of the revised Regional Board nutrient offset credit language ready for discussion for our next task force meeting.

c. Revisions Recommended by Regional Board Staff

Revisions to the TMDL Technical Report are tied to the completion of additional modeling as stated above.

d. Schedule Update on Adoption Hearing Date

No update at this time.

Barbara noted the Regional Board staff has submitted a proposal to the State Water Resources Control Board for a program offer by the State through AB 834 to the Regional Boards to study harmful algal blooms (HAB). Barbara stated that funding available through this program is only \$400,000 statewide, and it is expected that there will be a lot of competition for this funding, so Regional Board staff is not certain they will be funded for their total request, or if at all.

This proposal explores possible funding for both Big Bear Lake and Lake Elsinore. Barbara noted that Regional Board staff has been coordinating this study with the City of lake Elsinore and the City has offered boat access for the Study.

A question was raised as to the nature of the study. Barbara responded that staff is proposing one and a half year monitoring study to begin in the summer of 2021 and wrap up in December 2022. Monitoring may include QPCR analysis, as well as look at toxins and microscope ID to get an idea of what organisms are present.

Monitoring locations have not yet been identified. It is proposed that the study include multiple beach locations, as well as at least one open water sample to get an idea of overall lake quality. The study will include bi-weekly monitoring during the summer, and monthly monitoring in the winter season.

Tess Dunham asked if a letter of support from the Task Force would be helpful. Barbara stated that staff did include the Task Force as potential collaborators in the proposal and would be open to any support the Task Force could provide.

LESJWA staff will prepare a letter of support to submit to Regional Board in support to the HAB special study proposal for lake Elsinore.

Update: TMDL Modeling (Steve Wolosoff & Paula Kulis /CDM Smith and Dr. Michael Anderson)

Steve Wolosoff and Paula Kulis /CDM Smith provided an update of the TMDL modeling. This included a discussion on the preliminary results for an alternative reference scenario being developed for the TMDLs using the AEM3D model, and an update on the migration of the TMDL models from the old ELCOM-CAEDYM model to the new AEM3D model, which included extending the period of record for the TMDL models through 2020.

A copy of the CDM Smith Modeling presentation is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: <https://sawpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/February-2021-TF-meeting.pdf>

Discussion: AB 377 (Rivas Bill) (Tess Dunham/KSC)

Tess Dunham /Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP provided an update to the Task Force on a new bill AB 8377 (Rivas) being proposed in the State Assembly.

This Bill is sponsored by the California Coastkeeper and looks to do a number of things with respect to this task force. It potentially impacts the way the State and the regional water boards implement permits and adopt permits, as well as compliance with permits in the state of California, as it limits their authority as to what they can do with respect to certain compliance programs in permits. It requires that the water boards adopt permits that don't allow discharges to cause or contribute. It limits the amount of time that could be provided, whether in a time schedule order or implementation plan or schedule of implementation. It also prohibits the water boards from utilizing alternative compliance. Ultimately its goal is to require strict compliance with water quality standards at the point of discharge.

The bill as currently written it applies to discharge is to surface water, as well as to discharge is to groundwater, so that also impact recycled water use.

The bill is not yet scheduled for hearing before the Assembly safety and toxic materials committee.

Adam Fischer /Regional Board raised the question if the State has started working to develop a position for the Governor's office on the Bill. Tess responded that she's in the process of trying to setup a meeting with the Executive Officer at the State Board.

Lynn Merrill / Representing the City of San Jacinto asked if there have been any initial calculations of orders of cost for the different programs this Bill would impact and have any organizations started to together coalition's and opposition to this Bill? Tess responded that she knows a number of organizations, agriculture and others are already starting to put together coalitions and opposition; however, she cannot speak on anything specific, as it relates to her attorney client relationship with the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA).

Richard Boon /RCFC&WCD noted that CASQA Board shares Tess's concerns and has been conducting outreach and has scheduled an upcoming town hall meeting, which he will share with the MS4 permittees.

Tess noted a strategic plan that she can share with the Task Force. It was prepared by the Coastkeeper, as to what they'd like to see happen within California porter Cologne for meeting water quality standards and it talks about a number of recommended legislative changes.

Mark Norton welcomed Tess's recommendations and advice regarding the need of letters by stakeholders and/or a letter from the Task Force.

Tess recommended that task force members reach out to their local legislators, especially if their local legislator happens to be on the Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee. Tess requested that we make this a standing item on the agenda and will provide updates to the Task Force as she learns more.

Task Force Administration (LESJWA Staff

Draft FY 2021 – 22 Budget

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA presented an updated draft FY 2021-22 budget to the Task Force for discussion.

Rick noted the following with regard to this draft budget:

- Incorporates the FY 2019-20 credits requested by WRCAC and prorated allocation for the contribution from irrigated agriculture to reflect WRCAC's 72.8% percent of irrigated agriculture.
- Includes contingency of \$30,000.

He then reviewed the draft FY 2021-22 budget in comparison to the FY 2020-21 LE&CL TMDL Task Force Budget showing an overall net budget decrease of \$63,316 from 20-21 to 21-22. He then showed the budget allocation to stakeholders for their participation in the Task Force decreased about \$2,000 on average.

Following discussion, a motion was put forward by Lynn Merrill representing the City of San Jacinto to approve the FY 2021-22 LE&CL TMDL Task Force Budget subject to confirmation from the staff or governing body of each stakeholder and requesting that confirmation be received by close of business of Monday, March 15th. This motion was seconded by Pat Boldt representing WRCAC. This motion was unanimously approved by the Task Force.

Rick will send out the approved FY 2021-22 LE&CL TMDL Task Force Budget following today's meeting.

Other Business

Mark Norton / LESJWA informed the Task force that Greg Morrison /EVMWD is scheduled to present on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers / Lake Elsinore Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study at our next Task Force meeting.

Greg recently presented to the LESJWA Board on the study, which was described as a large scale feasibility study effort estimated to involve a number of years to complete. Potential partners to the U.S. ACOE on this feasibility study include City of Lake Elsinore, EVWMD and County of Riverside. The payment arrangements are still be worked out on what would be a 50/50 cost share for the feasibility study.

John Rudolph /Wood Env. noted that during their most recent monitoring of Canyon Lake he observed that the lake was much clearer than he had ever seen. Secchi depth results were greater than 5 meters of clarity in the main body.

Garth Engelhorn /NV5 provided an update on the wet weather monitoring. His team conducted their first wet weather event the end of January. This included sampling at the three main LE/CL TMDL watershed monitoring locations and Canyon Lake did spill over.

Adam Fischer /Regional Board inquired if the Task Force, following the same approach that's been used for collecting certification statements for deliverables submitted under the MS4 permit, would take on the task of collecting certification statements from dairy operators.

Following discussion, Tess Dunham requested the opportunity for further conversation on this issue with Regional Board staff.

Schedule Next Meeting

The next LE/CL TMDL Task Force meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2021 at 1:30 pm. as a virtual conference call meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.