

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

**August 30, 2021**

**PARTICIPANTS**

**VIA-CONFERENCE CALL**

Kris Hanson  
Dan Cortese  
Carlos Norvani  
Rae Beimer  
Maria Arreguin  
Cynthia Gabaldon  
Mike Roberts  
Stormy Osifeso  
Lynn Merrill  
Lauren Sotelo  
Pat Boldt  
Jim Klang  
Rachael Johnson  
Ankita Vyas  
Stefan Awender  
Mike Ali  
Sudhir Mohleji  
Al Javier  
Richard Boon  
Amy McNeill  
Rebekah Guill  
Abigail Suter  
Jayne Joy  
Barbara Barry  
Pamela Ybarra  
SueAnn Neal  
Tess Dunham  
Steven Wolosoff  
Paula Kulis  
Michael A Anderson  
Chris Stransky  
John Rudolph  
Kate Buckley  
Garth Engelhorn  
Richard Meyerhoff  
Greg Kahlen  
Rick Whetsel  
Bruce Whitaker

**REPRESENTATIVE**

City of Canyon Lake/Wildomar  
City of Hemet  
City of Lake Elsinore  
City of Moreno Valley  
City of Perris  
City of Menifee  
City of Riverside  
City of Riverside  
City of San Jacinto  
March JPA  
WRCAC  
WRCAC  
Riverside County Farm Bureau  
Michael Baker/Caltrans  
CA Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District  
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District  
Eastern Municipal Water District  
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP  
CDM Smith  
CDM Smith  
U.C. Riverside  
Wood Environmental  
Wood Environmental  
Wood Environmental  
NV5  
GEI Consultants  
The Kahlen Group  
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 1:33 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 June 23, 2021, LE&CL TMDL meeting notes. There were no suggested revisions to the meeting notes. The meeting notes were deemed acceptable and approved by the Task Force.

### **Status: TMDL Update (Regional Board)**

#### FHAB Monitoring Program

Barbara Barry /Regional Board provided a brief update on the Freshwater Harmful Algae Bloom (FHAB) Monitoring study for Lake Elsinore informing stakeholders that staff continues to collect samples twice a month.

She stated that staff were expecting to see a lot of variation in the cyanotoxin sample results, but what they are seeing is a steady increase from month to month in Microcystis concentrations. Currently, Microcystis levels are still in the caution range but are inching up towards the warning level. At the caution level, swimming is allowed, but it is recommended that pets do not drink the water. At the warning level, it is recommended that recreational activities in the water are limited.

Barbara also informed the Task Force that Regional Board is near the end of their hiring process and hope to have new staff on board within the next few weeks.

### **Presentation: Annual WQ Monitoring Review (Wood Environmental)**

Chris Stransky /Wood Environmental provided a brief overview of the LE&CL TMDL compliance monitoring program and introduced Mr. Garth Engelhorn /Alta Environmental to present the 2020-21 watershed storm event monitoring results. This was followed by a detailed review of the 2020-21 in-lake monitoring results by John Rudolph /Wood Environmental.

Comments on the FY 2020-21 Annual compliance Monitoring Report are due by close of Business, Friday September 3rd.

A copy of the Wood Environmental/NV5 presentation is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: [https://sawpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/LECL-Task-Force-Mtg\\_Annual-Summary-2020-2021\\_Wood\\_NV5.pdf](https://sawpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/LECL-Task-Force-Mtg_Annual-Summary-2020-2021_Wood_NV5.pdf).

### **Discussion: TMDL Technical Report Update Next Steps (KSC, Regional Board)**

Tess Dunham /Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP presented to stakeholders an update on potential next steps for the Task Force. This included a recap of the TMDL related activities, followed by highlighting the perspectives of both the Regional Board and the Task Force.

- Perspectives of the Water Board
  - o 2004 TMDL needs to be revised
  - o Draft 2018 Version needs to be revised
  - o Current lack of staff resources to prepare revision
  - o Would like to work in cooperation with Task Force for revisions
  - o Open to phased implementation plan
- Perspectives of the Task Force Members
  - o Believed Draft 2018 Version was supported by Water Board staff
    - Multiple lines of evidence to support use of median of reference condition for final WLA
    - Question evidence that may be used to support use of 25th percentile
  - o Concerned with changing WLAs (and ability to meet more stringent WLAs)
  - o Concerned with additional time and costs associated with revising Draft 2018 Version
  - o Looking for certainty
  - o Concerned with permitting impacts
    - E.g., pending Regional MS4 Permit

In response, Jayne Joy and Barbara Barry restated their commitment to working with the Task Force on the TMDLs.

Tess then provided a status update on LEAMS and several TMDL “next step” alternatives including the pros and cons of each for the Task Force to consider:

- Do Nothing
- WRCAC Recommendation
- Move Forward with use of 25<sup>th</sup> Percentile of reference condition

Expanding upon the recommendation proposed by WRCAC, Tess presented the WRCAC comment letter prepared by Jim Klang on behalf of WRCAC discussing alternative reference conditions for the LE&CL TMDLs.

A key point discussed in the comment letter by Jim Klang is that US EPA nutrient criteria development guidance documents for both rivers and streams, and lakes and reservoirs recommend using reference watershed 75th percentile values when available, and then the use of the 25th percentile values from all watershed monitoring datasets when reference conditions are not available. He also showed using USGS SPARROW Mapper data that in-stream total phosphorus loadings from reference watersheds in southern California were significantly higher than reference watersheds from other locations in the Pacific region, as was shown by the results of the total phosphorus analysis for the Cranston Guard Station reference watershed location in the 2018 TMDL technical report.

Steve Wolosoff added that what Jim provided in his memo is another line of evidence to further support the data analysis presented in the 2018 TMDL Technical report, which showed that although the natural background total phosphorus levels estimated for the Cranston Guard Station reference watershed location were high, they were not out of range for a watershed such as the San Jacinto. The question is if it is appropriate to go to an even more conservative target (the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile) than the median that was proposed in the 2018 TMDL Technical Report, which is more stringent than the EPA recommended 75th percentile for when reference watershed data.

A question was raised if the Peer Reviewers, as they were not local, had an understanding of and access to data on the local geology.

It was requested by stakeholders that at our next meeting Regional Board staff could talk about why the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile was chosen and why they feel it is an appropriate target.

Stakeholders also requested a workshop for permittees, prior to the next Task Force meeting to further discuss the options presented today.

A copy of the Tess's presentation is available on the SAWPA website under Agendas and Meeting Materials: <https://sawpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/August-30-2021-TF-Meeting.pdf>.

#### **Discussion: Fall Canyon Lake Alum Application (LESJWA Staff)**

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA informed stakeholders that the fall Canyon Lake alum application is planned for the week of October 11<sup>th</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Task Force Administration (LESJWA Staff)**

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA reminded stakeholders that SAWPA sent out invoices for FY2021-22 in mid-July. Please reach out to Rick Whetsel with any questions.

Rick also informed the Task Force to expect a proposal from CDM Smith for work to support the TMDL Task Force in the next few weeks.

#### **Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

#### **Schedule Next Meeting**

The next LE/CL TMDL Task Force meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 28, 2021, for 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. as a virtual conference call meeting.

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.